Cerman Emperors
and Kings.



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### HISTORICAL SKETCH

OF THE

# GERMAN EMPERORS AND KINGS

EXPLANATORY OF THE PORTRAITS IN THE EMPERORS' HALL.

BY

DR. J. B. BENKARD.

TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN

BY

ARTHUR CLIFFE.

"Old things are fading away; time has undergone its change, and a new life is coming forth from the ruins." SCHILLER,

THIRD EDITION.

FRANKFORT-ON-THE-MAIN.
HEINRICH KELLER, PUBLISHER.

1906.

Satis inconsultum est, superbum Tarquinium, Tullum et Ancum, patrem Aeneam, ferocem Rutulum et hujusmodi quoslibet et scribere et legere: nostros autem Carolos atque tres Ottones, imperatorem Henricum secundum Chunradem imperatorem, patrem gloriosissimi regis Henrici III. et eundem Henricum, regem in Christo triumphantem omnino negligere.

WIPPO in vita Chunradi Salici.

"It is somewhat injudicious to write and read about Tarquinius Superbus, Tullus Hostilius and Ancus Martius, about father Aeneas, the fierce Rutulian and about all men of this kind, without mentioning at all our Charles, our three Ottos, the emperor Henry II., the emperor Conrad, father of the most illustrious king Henry III., and that Henry himself, the true Christian conqueror."

WIPPO in the life of Conrad the Salic.

#### Preface.

The Römerberg, a large open square in the old quarter of the town, which formerly bore the name of "Samstagsberg", is closely associated with many historical events. It is also the site of the Frankfort Rathaus (town-hall), an ancient though somewhat plain building, better known as the Römer, which rises high above the surrounding houses. With its façade sloping step-like into the form of a gable, it differs very little from the two buildings on either side of it, the "Limpurg" to the right, and the "Löwenstein" to the left, except that it is higher and has longer windows. Whence the name Römer, or rather "zum Römer", is derived, nobody can say precisely, but in the year 1405 the municipal council of Frankfort bought from two brothers, Kunz and Heinz Römer, alias Kölner, two adjacent houses, one called "zum Goldenen Schwan", the other, which stood on this very spot, was even then known by the name of "zum Römer." These two buildings were then rebuilt and fitted out anew for municipal purposes, as the old town-hall near the cathedral had fallen into decay. This, at least, seems to have been what took place, for from a document dated 1406, which is still to be seen in the archives of this city, there can be little doubt that the large pillared hall on the ground-floor near the entrance was erected at that time, that is to say, immediately after the above-mentioned purchase. A few years ago when the stalls, which were then used for the fair and were a great disfigurement to the hall, were finally removed, evident traces of frescoes were discovered, and from the subject and style of execution these could not well belong to a period later than the fifteenth century and in all probability belonged to the very time when the hall was built. Morcover, in a document dated 1411 (see Olenschlager, Golden Bull XCVIII) the municipal council expressly declares that "they caused this house to be built for the honour of the Empire and the Electors." Later on it was enlarged by annexing the "Löwenstein" house and the purchase of other buildings, and in the XVI and XVIII centuries it was enlarged to its present dimensions by the erection of new lateral structures. The front façade, on the other hand, has remained to the present day the same as it always was, with the exception of an occasional re-painting and a few insignificant changes. The same thing may be said of the large hall looking out on to the Römerberg, over which is the so-called Emperors' Hall, where the coronation banquet was given during several hundred years. After the coronation of Maximilian II, the German emperors were all, with but few exceptions, crowned in Frankfort. In all probability the Emperors' Hall was constructed at the same time as the ground-floor hall, for as early as the year 1411 such a room is distinctly mentioned in the above-said document.

The interior arrangements and decorations of the "Römer" underwent some changes in detail during the various renovations that took place from time to time, the chief of which seem to have been in the years 1612 and 1742. It is difficult to say precisely when the portraits of the Emperors were first hung in this hall; probably a beginning was made in the XVI century, or even earlier, but certainly not later than the opening of the XVII century. The large staircase now leading to the Emperors' Hall was built in the year 1740, probably because the old one, which had led in quite a different direction and opened into the hall itself, no longer fully answered its purpose. The frescoes in the election-room and the vestibules belong to the same period, having been executed by Colomba. The election-room, where the electors or their delegates used to assemble for conference before the election took place, and where, not many years ago, the senate held its sittings, is in pretty much the same condition as it was in former times. The Emperors' Hall has also been carefully preserved in its original state, in spite of the restoration which took place a short time ago. The delapidated condition of the roof made a thorough renovation necessary, but the ceiling and wainscoting remained unaltered, the only change being that the walls were painted a little differently and a new floor was put down. The mural decorations, on the other hand, underwent a slight alteration, for in place of the faded painting on the western wall of the room representing "King Solomon's Judgment", a new one on the same subject, painted by Steinle of Vienna, was put up, and the bronze-coloured busts of the emperors were replaced by paintings. The names of the donors and painters of the latter are given in another place. From that of Maximilian I. downwards they are all real portraits; the kings and . emperors before that date are painted from tombstones, coins, seals, or from the descriptions contained in chronicles. The portrait of the Emperor Charlemagne is on the right when entering the hall, directly under the picture of "King Solomon's Judgment." Next to him hang the different emperors and kings of his line who held sway over Germany. To the right of Charlemagne, but on the southern wall of the hall, are all the emperors and kings from Conrad I. to Frederick II., after whose reign the great interregnum took place. To the left of

Charlemagne, on the northern side of the hall, are the emperors and kings who reigned after the great interregnum—from Rudolf I. till Charles VI.; then on the eastern side of the wall, where the large windows are and directly opposite the portrait of Charlemagne, follow the later emperors down to Francis II., after which no more portraits could be hung for want of room.

The following descriptions are intended to re-call to the mind of the reader and the visitor of this venerable edifice some of the most important incidents of German history, whether joyful or sad. May they be received in the same spirit in which they are

written.

Table of the Emperors whose portraits are hung in the Emperor's Hall, with the names of the painters and donors.

	sia. Jubeek.
Founders.	Künstlerverein, Frankfort.  Ditto.  Senator Reuss and Bailiff Benkard.  Kunstverein, Frankfort.  Senator Reuss and Bailiff Benkard.  Staedel Museum.  Trusses of the orphan asylum.  His Majesty Frederic William IV., king of Prussia.  Frau Niess and J. N. du Fay.  Senator Dr. Souchay and family.  John Dav. Passavant.  Kunstverein, Dusseldorf.  Ditto.  Ditto.  Ditto.  Ditto.  Ditto.  Ditto.  Ditto.  Ditto.  Ditto.  A Society of patriotic citizens of Hamburg and Lubeck.  A Society of patriotic citizens of Frankfort.  The Senate of the free cities of Hamburg and Lubeck.  A Society of patriotic citizens of Frankfort.  The family de Neutville.  As Society of patriotic citizens of Frankfort.  The family de Neutville.  Alex Bernus and Bernus du Fay.  Conneillor Frederic Schlosser, Frankfort.  His Highness duke William I. of Nassan  Prince Metternich.
Painters.	Philipp Veit, Berlin J. J. Jung, Frankfort Charles Trost, Cassel Charles Trost, Cassel J. J. Jung, Frankfort from a cartoon by Ph. Veit Ballenberger, Anspach J. B. Zwecker, Frankfort Philip Veit, Berlin A. Teiehs, Brunswick J. Settegast, Coblentz D. Passavant, Frankfort E. Clasen, Dusseldorf H. Stilke, Dusseldorf Faw. Inlée, Cassel P. J. Kiedrich, Cologne E. Bendemann, Dresden Dr. Fellner, Frankfort Fr. Lessing, Silesia J. B. Zwecker, Frankfort Fr. Lessing, Silesia G. Jawinsky, Coblentz H. Mucke, Düsseldorf G. Javinsky, Coblentz H. Mucke, Düsseldorf Ed. Steinle, Vienna
Names of the Emperors.	Charlemagne Louis the Debonnaire Louis the German Charles the Fat Arnulph Louis the Child Courad I. Henry I. Otto II. Otto III. Henry II. Henry III. Henry III. Frederic II. Barbarossa Henry V. Lothaire Courad III. Frederic II. Barbarossa Henry VI. Krederic II. Frederic II. Rudolph I. of Hapsburg Adolphus of Nassau
Reign.	768 — 814 840 — 840 840 — 840 840 — 840 876 — 887 887 — 899 900 — 911 911 — 918 913 — 936 936 — 973 938 — 1002 1002 — 1002 1002 — 1002 1004 — 1002 1006 — 1125 1125 — 1137 1138 — 1152 1150 — 1197 1150 — 1197 1150 — 1197 1150 — 1197 1151 — 1197 1151 — 1197 1150 — 1197 1151 — 1197 1151 — 1197 1152 — 1190 1190 — 1197 1190 — 1190 — 1190 1190 — 1190 1190 — 1190 1190 — 1190

Founders.	His Majesty king William I. of the Netherlands. His Majesty king Louis of Bavaria. Several citizens of Frankfort.  The Society "Abendzirkel", Frankfort.  Maurice v. Bethmann.  The senators Neuburg, Souchay, and Passavant.  For a Bavarian Society, Herr v. Mieg, deputy of the diet of the Germ. Confederation.  Kunstverein, Frankfort.  Count Münch-Bellinghausen.  Julius Hübner.  Frau Louis Gontard and H. Fr. Gontard-Wichelhausen.  Staedel Museum.  His Majesty the Emperor Ferdinand I. of Austria.  The family Metzler.  A Society of patriotic citizens at Mayence.  His Majesty the Emperor of Austria.  The high Senate of the free city of Bremen.  His Imp. and Royal Highness the Archduke Lewis.  His Imp. and Royal Highness the Archduke Lewis.  His Majesty the Emperor of Austria.  For a Bavarian Society, Herr v. Mieg, deputy of the diet of the Germ. Conf.  His Majesty the Emperor of Austria.  St. John's Lodge, "Sokrates zur Standhaftigkeit", Frankforton-than, and Royal Highness the Archduke Charles.  His Majesty the Emperor Ferdinaud I. of Austria.
Painters.	Philip Veit, Berlin CharlesBallenberger, Anspaeh Dr. Ferd. Fellner, Frankfort CharlesBallenberger, Anspaeh W. Hensel, Berlin Charles Ballenberger, Philipp Volz, Bingen J. Hübner, Dreaden Alfred Rethel, Aix-la-Chap. Alfred Rethel, Aix-la-Chap. John Ender, Vienna Alfred Rethel, Aix-la-Chap. Ch. Henerlein, Mayence Jos. Danhauser, Vienna Rd. Steinle, M. Kupelwieser, Vienna A. Kupelwieser, Vienna M. Kupelwieser, Vienna M. Hailer, Munieh N. Schiavoni, Vienna M. Hailer, Munieh N. Schiavoni, Vienna M. Hailer, Munieh N. Schiavoni, Vienna M. Goppenheim, Frankfort Leop. Kupelwieser, Vienne Leop. Kupelwieser, Vienne
Names of the Emperors.	Henry VII. Louis of Bavaria Frederic of Austria Charles IV. Gunther of Schwarzb. Wenceslaus Robert of the Palatinate Sigismund Albert II. Frederic III. Maximilian I. Charles V. Ferdinand I. Maximilian II. Rudolph II. Matthias Ferdinand III. Leopold I. Joseph II. Charles VII. Ferdinaries I. Joseph II. Charles VII. Francis I. Joseph III.
Reign.	1308—1313 1314—1347 1314—1347 1314—1330 1346—1378 1378—1400 1400—1410 1411—1437 1438—1493 1493—1519 1519—1558 1558—1564 1576—1610 1619—1637 1637—1657 1637—1657 1647—1711 1771—1740 1742—1745 1745—1765 1745—1765 1745—1765 1745—1765 1765—1790 1790—1792

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#### Introduction.

In the course of that protracted struggle between the old German tribes and the Romans, which began some years before the Christian era, and continued almost without interruption until the fall of the Roman empire, the ancestors of modern Germany appeared in great hordes or tribes, which afterwards united and became powerful nations, such as the Alemanni, Franks, Saxons, Goths, and others. Of all these nations by far the most renowned in history were the Franks, who at first settled on the banks of the Lippe, the Sieg, and the Lahn and in adjacent districts, then after carrying on successful wars, they gradually extended their dominions farther and farther, until one of the leaders, Clovis by name, defeated the Roman general Syagrius at Soissons in 486, the Alemanni ten years later at Zulpich, and having embraced Christianity made himself chief of all the Franks and became the founder of the great Frankish empire, which was afterwards greatly enlarged by his sons. Soon after his death, during the first half of the VI. century, the said empire included all the country on both sides of the Lower and Middle Rhine, on the right bank up to the source of the Main, and the upper part of the Weser, and on the left to the Saar and from there right away to the English Channel and the North Sea. The Land of the Franks (or Latin "Francia") was the name given to the above expanse of territory in its full extent. The larger or German part, situated to the east of the Ardennes was called "Austrasia" or the Eastern Empire, whilst the other chiefly Roman and Gallic part, which had been wrested from the Romans in the late struggles, was called "Neustria", or the New Western Empire. After being several times united, severed, and re-united, these two empires came at last into conflict with each other about the nomination of their king and the "major domus", the highest official of the empire. Under the command of the dukes, Pepin d'Héristal and Charles Martel, the Austrasians were victorious in several battles, i. e., Pestri, Stablo, Cambrai, and Soissons. Having thus defeated the Neustrians, by whom they had been repeatedly attacked, the Austrasians gained complete supremacy over the double empire. Charles Martel, the son of Pepin d'Héristal, restored and maintained the power of the government, and, though nominally only duke of the Franks, exercised

during his life all the functions of sovereignty. He gained immortal fame by saving Christendom against the attacks of the Saracens, whom he defeated in the memorable battle of Poitiers in 732. In that victory he was chiefly supported by his Austrasian or German warriors. His son, Pepin the Short, who was by no means inferior to his father in power and energy now assumed the title of king. Carloman, his elder brother, having resigned Ostrasia, his portion of the paternal dominion, in his favour, Pepin became monarch of the two empires and with the consent of the Pope, as well as of the entire nation, he forced the last descendant of the Merovingian dynasty, Childeric III. to retire into a monastery in 752, and had himself crowned king of the Franks by S. Boniface, the first archbishop of Mayence. Thus the empire of the Franks was again re-established on a firm and sure basis. Of the two sons and successors of Pepin the Short, the younger, Carloman, died shortly after his father; Charles, the elder, seized the double crown and being now sole master of the empire, all the Germanic nations which had been subdued before his reign, i.e., the Alemanni or Swabians, Thuringians, Burgundians, Bavarians, and Frieslanders, became subject to him. By conquering Aquitania, Septimania, Brittany, and parts of Spain and Italy, but more especially by subduing the Saxons of northern Germany, he enlarged his empire to an extent unprecedented since the fall of the old Roman Empire. At length he added to the imperial power also the title of Emperor and thus his portrait is the first of that long line of German Emperors who are pictorially represented in our Emperors' Hall.

#### Frankish Emperors and Kings.

The Carlovingians.

#### 1. Charles I., or Charlemagne.

(A. D. 768-814.)

Charlemagne, king of the Franks, who was descended from an old German (Austrasian) family, was the first to unite the whole country under one ruler, which he achieved partly by inheriting large dominions from his ancestors, and partly by conquering the other nations of Germany, viz., the Franks, the Swabians or Alemanni, the Bavarians, the Thuringians, the Frisians, and the Saxons, the last named being converted to Christianity only after a long and cruel war. He was also master of Roman Gaul (later on called the Empire of the Franks or France), the greater part of which had been conquered by his predecessors, the kingdom of the Longobardians in Italy, which he himself had subjugated, and a part of Spain that he had taken from the Arabs. In the year 800 A. D.,

Charlemagne restored the old Western Roman Empire and was crowned at Rome by Pope Leo III. as first Roman Emperor of the newly founded German Empire. Charlemagne often violated old laws and privileges, it is true, but he restored order, promoted agriculture, commerce, art, and learning, to which last he was personally devoted, and he made every effort to improve his knowledge of German, his own native tongue, and to subject it to regular rules. He also caused the old heroic legends of the Teutonic nations to be collected, and preferred, when political necessities did not call him away to distant regions, to reside among the people of his own tribe, to whose language, costume, and manners he held fast all through his life. Worms and Ingelheim, but in later years mostly Aix-la-Chapelle, were his favourite places of abode; in fact, concerning the last-named there is an ancient; but often refuted, legend that it was the town of his birth.

From the Eastern mystic kingdoms Many wond'ring people wandered, Bringing homage from their nations To the golden throne at Aachen.

Von Schlegel.

At Aix-la-Chapelle, too, Charlemagne was buried in the cathedral that was erected by himself.

Frankfort owes its first mention in history to Charlemagne, for it was here that he caused a palace to be built for himself; here, too, he summoned a diet and ecclesiastical assembly in 794, whilst on the left Bank of the Main he planted a colony of Saxons (Sachsenhausen) which gave the first great impulse to the growth of Frankenfurt, as before his reign it was but an insignificant place.

Charlemagne married: 1) an unknown lady; 2) Desiderata, daughter of the king of the Longobardians, whom he afterwards divorced; 3) Hildegard of Swabia, mother of Lewis the Debonnaire; 4) Fastrada of East Franconia, who died at Frankfurt; 5) Luidgarde of Swabia.

#### Lewis I., the Debonnaire,

(A. D. 814-840)

son of Charlemagne and his wife Hildegarde, had, even during the life time of his father, been solemnly proclaimed co-regent and successor at Aix-la-Chapelle. After the death of his father, Lewis I. ruled, with but a weak hand, the heterogeneous parts of the vast empire, which were always opposed to a lasting union. Nevertheless he has the credit of having brought order into the affairs of the church and improved the German language by causing parts of the Bible and other religious works to be translated into that tongue. In Frankfort this emperor built a palace (the Saalhof) where he very often resided, and where he held two diets of the empire. Here, too, his youngest son Charles (the Bald) was born in 823. The birth of this child was the cause of innumerable quarrels with his elder sons, who imperiled the very existence of the empire and em-

bittered the declining years of their father's life. The emperor was twice dethroned (in 830 und 833) and forced to do public penance. After each occasion he was reinstated but was, at the close of his life, compelled to begin a campaign against his own son Lewis, during which he fell ill and expired near Mayence on an island in the middle of the Rhine, whither he had repaired from Frankfort that he might spend the summer there with the hope of recovery.

He his buried in Mayence.

Lewis I. was married to 1) Irmengarde, daughter of a Frankish count; 2) to Judith of Bavaria, daughter of Guelph of Altorf and mother of Charles the Bald.

#### Lewis II., the German,

(A. D. 840-876)

son of the former, was victorious in a sanguinary battle at Fontenay, which was fought by a combined army under himself and his younger brother Charles against their elder brother Lothair. After this battle was signed the famous treaty of Verdun (843) by which Lewis II. was acknowledged King of Germany (i. e. the Eastern Empire of the Franks) whilst Lothair, who had been invested with the Roman imperial crown during the lifetime of his father, obtained the Italian dominions and the greater part of the territory situated between the Rhone, the Saône, the Meuse, and the Rhine (Lorraine in the broadest acceptance of the word). Charles the Bald remained in possession of Gaul which, from that time was called the Western Empire of the Franks, or France. Thus the unnatural union between the Gallic and Teutonic territories was again almost completely dissolved. Lewis II. soon had to defend himself bravely against his Norman and Slavic enemies, who were continually invading his territories. Generally speaking he resided at Frankfort where he laid the foundation of the cathedral and held several diets. It was in Frankfort, too, in his palace of Saalhof, that Lewis II, died. During the last years of his reign, by the treaty of Mersen (870), Lewis II, had acquired half of the province of Lorraine, but had in vain aspired to the imperial crown. Incessant quarrels with his own sons, but still more the long struggle with his brother, Charles the Bald, with whom he had divided Lorraine but who had succeeded in securing for himself the imperial crown, fill many pages of the history of Lewis II's reign, and the decisive struggle between the two brothers was only prevented by the death of Lewis. The history of his reign is replete with acts of atrocious cruelty perpetrated against small, rebellious Saxon tribes; yet Lewis has the credit of having done much for the welfare of Germany, and the contemporary poet, Otfried, may well be believed when he says of him, "Lewis governed with the power and wisdom worthy of a Frankish King."

Lewis II. lies buried in the monastery of Lorsch in the Bergstrasse some miles from Darmstadt, though no trace of the burial place is now to be seen. The last mention of it dates back to the XVII century. Lewis was married to Emma, a lady of the house

of Guelf, and sister of the Empress Judith.

Scarcely had Lewis II. closed his eyes, when Charles the Bald, King of France, who had secured the imperial crown in the year 875, appeared on German territory with a large army, intending to conquer the whole country, or at least the territory on the left bank of the Rhine. But the sons of Lewis the German, Carloman, Lewis the Younger, and Charles, who had divided Germany between them, took up the struggle against their uncle with vigour, and completely defeated him at Andernach in the year 876 compelling him to fly with the utmost precipitation, wherely he narrowly escaped capture. In the following year Charles the Bald died, but two of his victors soon followed him, Lewis the Younger in 882, and Carloman in 880, so that there only remained.

#### Charles II. (III.), the Fat.

(A. D. 882-887)

youngest son of Lewis the German, who consequently became undisputed monarch of the whole of the Eastern, or Germanic, empire. After having been crowned at Rome in the year 880, and most of his relatives in the Western empire having died, Charles the Fat came into possession of that realm, too (885), so that his dominions were almost as extensive as those of Charlemagne before him. He likewise frequently resided at Frankfort, the cathedral of which he greatly embellished. The burden of government was, however, too much for body and mind; his territories were ravaged with impunity by the Normans, and he himself was deposed at the very moment when he was convoking an imperial diet at Tribur, near Frankfort. The princes who were then assembled at Frankfort elected his nephew, Arnulph, as his successor to the throne. Charles died a short time after this event, not without some suspicion of violence, and lies buried in the island of Reichenau in the Lake of Constance.

Charles the Fat married: 1) an unknown lady. 2) Richarda, probably a lady of Alemannic descent, who remained without issue, and whose divorce was one of the chief causes of his fall.

### Arnulph, (A. D. 888–899)

Duke of Carinthia, son of Carloman, having been elected King of Germany, renounced the crown of the Western, or Frankish, empire, but retained the right of suzerainty over it. Lothringia, the government of which he afterwards conferred on his son, Zwentibald, was now united with the Eastern, or Germanic, empire. Having defeated the Normans in the decisive battle of Louvain (891), Arnulph undertook two expeditions into Italy (894, 895) in the latter of which he succeeded in surprising and taking the city of Rome. Hereupon

he was crowned Emperor (896), but soon after fell sick, having been poisoned as tradition says. He died a few years later at Ratisbon where he was fond of residing and where he now lies buried.

Arnulph married Jutta or Udda of unknown origin, but pro-

bably one of the sisters of Leopold of Bavaria.

### Lewis III. (IV.), the Child, (A. D. 900-911)

son of the former, and the last of the German Kings who could trace their descent from Charlemagne, was elected and crowned king by the diet of the empire at Forchheim, in Franconia, when but six years of age. The Lothringians shortly afterwards acknowledged him as their sovereign. Like most of his successors Lewis III. frequently resided in Frankfort. He governed under the guidance of Bishop Hatto of Mayence, but at an early age took an active part in the government of his empire and showed himself no unworthy descendant of his great ancestor. Germany was at this time suffering from the dissolution of its old popular institutions and the developinent of the feudal system, which, intended as it was originally for time of war, had since the reign of Charlemagne, and more especially since the confusion following his death, spread over the whole state and destroyed all attempts at organisation. Lewis was too young and too weak to combat successfully against the decay of his kingdom and the incursions of the Hungarians, who demanded tribute. Unable to protect his subjects from internal and foreign enemies, the youthful king died when scarcely eighteen years old. He was unmarried. His tomb is to be seen at Ratisbon.

#### 7. Conrad I.

(A. D. 911-918)

was descended from a noble Frankish family of the Lahn country, and was related to the Carlovingian House. He was chosen king on the recommendation of Otto of Saxony, and probably at Forchheim\*). Conrad endeavoured to strengthen and maintain that political union between the German nation and the empire which had grown up during the previous century. But his efforts did not meet with the success they merited, even though he was actively assisted by the clergy, for the defection of Lorraine, the devastating incursions of the Hungarians, and the revolts of the nobles in Swabia, Bavaria, and Saxony threatened the overthrow of the German state erected by the Franks, and filled this reign with incessant disorder and fighting. Nevertheless, severely wounded as he finally was in a battle

<sup>\*)</sup> It is decidedly incorrect to speak of the Eastern (or Germanic) Empire as elective after, and hereditary before this date, as many historians have asserted to be the case, for the constitutional principal of an elective empire was first drawn up in the reign of Henry IV.

against Arnulph the Wicked, he earned on his deathbed the everlasting gratitude of the German nation. For, regardless of the glory of his own house and tribe, and in order to reconcile the powerful Saxon people which had always been hostile to the unity of the empire, he appointed as his successor to the throne his enemy, Henry duke of Saxony, and charged his brother Eberhard to carry to the former the royal insignia of office. Thus, universally mourned by the Franks, ended a life which had been constantly devoted to the duties of a high calling. Conrad left no male descendants. He was buried at Fulda, or as some say, at Weilburg.

Conrad married: Cunegund of Swabia, the widow of Duke Leo-

pold of Bavaria.

#### Saxon Emperors and Kings.

#### 8. Henry I., the Fowler,

(A. D. 919-936).

Duke of Saxony, surnamed the Fowler, because he was said to have been engaged in bird-eatening when he learned that he had been called to the throne, was a grandson of Lewis the German on the mother's side. He was chosen king by the Franks and Saxons at Fritzlar, and afterwards aeknowledged by the other tribes. He held the reins of government with a firm hand, as a true king of the Franks\*); he trained his people in the use of arms, built fortified towns, and made the Germans once more feared by their enemies. He subdued the Wends after several sanguinary battles, fought successfully against the French, brought about again a union between Lorraine and the German Empire, after which he completely defeated the Hungarians at Merseburg (933) — (at the expiration of the time of peace he had sent them a mangy dog in place of the usual tribute). Henry I. was also victorious in Denmark where he made the Mark of Schleswig a frontier province of Germany. It was to his policy also that we owe the rise of towns in the northern part of Germany. Henry's reign was, in fact, one of the most active and glorious in the history of the country, for he it was that prepared the way for that unity of the empire which his immediate successor was able to bring about. In the southern provinces of Germany (in Alemannia and Bavaria) Henry I. was not able to exercise so powerful an influence as was the case in the north, where he possessed authority as Duke of Saxony, or in the central and western parts where lay most of the royal estates. Henry I.'s tomb is to be seen at Quedlinburg.

<sup>\*)</sup> Henry I. and his immediate successors bore the title of "King of the Franks" as their predecessors had done, and this title was only gradually superseded by that of "King of the Romans, or Roman King" which was born by the later German Emperors.

He married: 1) Hadburg, daughter of the Count of Merseburg (mother of Thankmars), from whom he was divorced; 2) Matilda, daughter of a Count of Ringelheim, a descendant of the famous Saxon general Wittekind. This second wife was the virtuous and exalted mother of the emperor Otto the Great.

#### 9. Otto I., the Great, (A. D. 936-973)

son of the former, was recommended as his successor to the throne by his father, who thus passed over his eldest son Thankmars. He was elected and crowned at Aix-la-Chapelle, which from that time forward became the usual place of coronation in Germany. Endowed with all those qualities which go to make up a great monarch and military leader, Otto the Great was haughty and austere in his private character. Soon after his accession he was engaged in a struggle against his most powerful vassals who vigorously opposed the ever-increasing power of the throne. Yet Otto the Great always remained victorious, and finally overcame all his opponents, not only subduing the sons of Arnulph of Bayaria, but also his own relatives and other hostile princes, who either perished in the fatal struggle, as was the case with Thankmars (938), Eberhard von Franken and Giselbert von Lothringen (939), or humbly besought his pardon, as did his brother Henry in Frankfort (942)\*). On the other hand, Otto greatly favoured the influence of ecclesiastical dignitaries, in order to break the power of his great vassals, whereby he also made himself feared abroad. Having regained Alsace, which the French had seized during the first years of confusion, he secured Lorraine against attack from that quarter, and restored order in Burgundy. Otto then marched with a large army to the assistance of the king of France, with whom he had meanwhile become reconciled. In the war against the French king's rebellious subjects, Otto took Rheims and appeared before the walls of Rouen (946). This town he was unable to take, but succeeded in bringing about a reconciliation between the contending parties. In the meantime he kept strict order in the Empire. Being appealed to for help against Berengar, king of Italy, by his oppressed subjects (951), Otto marched into that country and subdued him. Upon Berengar breaking his oath of allegiance, he defeated him again and sent him captive to Germany. A fatal consequence of this victory was the renewed union between Italy and Germany, a fruitful source of disaster. Having restored the Roman Empire and been solemnly crowned at Rome (962), he successfully maintained his power on the other side of the Alps. Arnulph had been the last German emperor to wear the imperial crown of Rome, and since then it had been the prey of Italian tyrants. In his character as protector of the church he deposed both Pope John XII (963) and an

<sup>\*)</sup> Otto the Great often held his court, and on one occasion an imperial diet, at Frankfort.

Anti-pope (964); the Romans who had revolted he subdued with great cruelty, and even the Greeks, with whom he had come into conflict and defeated several times in South Italy, were forced to make a peace honorable for the emperor (971). But his expeditions were not limited to countries in the south and west, for after a long struggle he again brought Bohcmia into subjection to the German empire (though formerly a tributary state Bohemia had succeeded in making itself independent), whilst the north and east of Germany had been overrun by terrible enemies all of whom he now compelled to submit and acknowledge him as their master. Otto the Great also invaded Denmark and penetrated with an irresistible force as far as Ottosund, which recived its name from him (947); he forced the king of that country to submit to him and to be converted to Christianity. With the great victory over the Hungarians in the valley of the Lech, near Augsbourg (955), Otto put an end to their predatory incursions for ever. In the north-eastern extremity of his dominions he repulsed the Slavs, conquered the whole country as far as the Oder, established bishoprics at Brandenburg, Posen, and other towns. After having been acknowledged as protector of Poland, he expired leaving unfinished the settlement of his Slavic conquests. His death took place while at the zenith of his power, and he left his successor the most glorious, but at the same time most dangerous, throne in Christendom.

In obedience to his own request, he was buried in Magdeburg, for which town he had had a special predilection, and on his tomb is engraved a short but beautiful Latin inscription with the following

import.

"A triple cause for mourning bides here his second birth; A king he was, his country's pride, and glory of the church."

It was in this reign that silver was discovered in the Harz Moun-

tains and mining was first begun.

Otto the Great married: 1) Editha, daughter of an Anglo-Saxon king and afterwards mother of Ludolf, who caused his father much unhappiness before he died in the year 957; 2) Adelheid of Burgundy, dowager-queen of Italy, afterwards mother of Otto the Second.

#### 10. Otto II., the Red,

(A. D. 973-983)

son of the former, was crowned at Aix-la-Chapelle and in Rome during the life time of his father. He forced his cousin, Henry of Bayaria, to submit to him; then he made war with Denmark and conquered the borderland (974), afterwards he fought against the Slavs in the castern part of the empire, and again with France about Lorraine. In the latter expedition he advanced, destroying everything on the way, as far as Paris (978), and although he suffered many losses when retreating, yet he obtained possession of Lorraine for the German Empire. Then Otto II. made a campaign in Italy, but in a war with the Greeks and their allies, the Saracens, which had been

a successful one at first, he was completely routed at Basantello, near Tarento (982). At the risk of his life he escaped captivity by jumping from a Greek ship into the sea and swimming to the shore where his own people were waiting. Soon after this event, however, he died at Rome where his tomb is now to be seen.

Otto II. married: Theophania, daughter of the Greek emperor Romanus II.

#### 11. Otto III.,

(A. D. 983-1002)

son of the former, when still an infant was oppointed to succeed his father. He enjoyed an excellent education under the care of such men as Bernhard, Meinwerk, and Gerbert, and even as a child was praised for his abilities as the "wonder of the world." But only too soon dangers of all kinds began to threaten the young child; the French, the Danes, and the Slavs all tried to profit by his minority, and Henry the Quarrelsome, of Bavaria, even went so far as to take him prisoner and tried to get the government into his hands. But shortly after Henry was forced to submit, and did homage to him at Frankfort (985). Willigis, archbishop of Mainz, carried on the affairs of state with great ability and all the young king's enemies were brought to subjection. Under the influence of his mother Theophania, a daughter of the Greek emperor, and of his grandmother, Adelheid of Burgundy, Otto III. soon showed a predilection for foreign customs and, as his father before him, a liking for the ceremony of the Roman-Greek court. Having reached the age when he could wage war himself, he made three expeditions into Italy (in the years 996, 997, and 1000) and was crowned by the pope in Rome (996). But in spite of his preference for Rome, which even induced him to take up his permanent residence there, the Romans rose up in arms against him several times, and thus provoked him to commit great cruelties. Though each rebellion was quickly subdued, it was without any tangible result, for Otto III died at Palermo when scarcely 22 years of age. Tradition relates that he was poisoned by a pair of gloves presented to him by Stephania, the widow of the Roman chieftain Crescentius, whom he had ordered to be executed.

Otto III. lies buried, according to his express wish, in Aix-la-Chapelle cathedral. The tomb is to be seen in St. Mary's chapel. He was never married.

#### 12. Henry II., the Saint,

(A. D. 1002-1024)

a relative of the former, was elected and crowned by the Bavarians and Franks at Mayence, afterwards acknowledged by the other tribes, and raised to the throne of Charlemagne at Aix-la-Chapelle. He waged war with varying success against Boleslas Chrobri of Poland, and was finally defeated. He undertook three expeditions into Italy where

Ardouin of Ivrea contested his right to the iron crown of Lombardy, notwithstanding that Henry had been crowned king at Pavia in 1004. In the year 1014 Henry was crowned again at Rome by the pope; he then expelled the Greeks and their partizans from Capua, Benevento, Salerno, and other places of Lower Italy. White holding sovereign sway in all these countries he favoured the clergy in every way (at a council in Frankfort he gave a special proof of his devotion) and even renounced important privileges of the imperial dignity in favour of the apostolic see. For these and other services to the church he and his consort were canonised after their decease. Henry II. left no children and was buried in the cathedral of Bamberg which he himself had founded. He was the last of the Saxon line of kings that had reigned gloriously over the empire for upwards of a century.

Henry II. married Cunegunde of Luxemburg.

#### Frankish Emperors.

The Salians.

#### 13. Conrad II., the Salian.

(A. D. 1024-1039.)

Of this emperor who was descended from a ducal house of the Rhenish Franks, and was elected at a convocation of all the German peoples in the open fields between Worms and Mayence, the German poet Uhland has written:

Had Charlemagne once more arisen in his might, The joyful people scarce had shown so much delight!

Having been duly crowned at Mayence and having mounted the imperial throne at Aix-la-Chapelle, Conrad II travelled through all his dominions, in order to secure the attachment of his various subjects, and to intimidate his adversaries. With a powerful army he then entered Italy, which country he once more reduced to submission and was crowned again by the pope in Rome in the year 1027. In a treaty with the Danes he ceded to them the March of Schleswig. In another expedition against the Hungarians he was far from being successful (1030), but he was more fortunate in the northeast part of his dominions, where he compelled the Poles to agree to certain institutions which he had introduced into their country. In the meantime he accomplished the union of the kingdom of Burgundy and the German empire, a plan which had already been prepared by his predecessor Henry II; he afterwards secured this conquest against Otto, count of Tours, Chartres, and Champagne in several campaigns (from 1032-1034) and established the supremacy of Germany over a large portion of what is at present the south of France, as far as the Mediterranean Sea. Conrad II, is renowned among the monarchs of his

time not only for his successful wars, but also for his talent in governing his immense dominions. Everywhere we find him displaying indefatigable activity, sometimes in Germany, and sometimes in Burgundy and Italy; his actions were, it must be confessed, not always free from selfish motives, but yet his principal aim was to promote order. justice, and morality in the state; whilst the so-called "God's Peace", which he vigorously enforced, restrained to some extent the desire for feuds so prevalent in that age. The monarch himself, without distinction of rank or family ties, broke the obstinate resistance of disloyal princes and prelates. In this way, for instance, his anger fell on his own brother, Gebhard, during an assembly of the states at Frankfort (1029), and yet more on his stepson, Ernest, duke of Swabia (the pretender to the throne of Burgundy) whom he placed under the ban of the empire (1030); and finally on Heribert of Milan, who had gained Conrad's favour by some eminent services, but had not been lenient and prudent enough to preserve it. But the escape of Heribert from prison and his subsequent open rebellion involved the emperor in a serious contest. After having acknowledged the hereditary nature of the Italian fiefs, Conrad was devising means for increasing his authority and had returned to Germany for the purpose of making vigorous preparations, when the execution of his plans was suddenly interrupted by his death. After a short illness Conrad II, expired at his palace in Utrecht, a death too untimely for the empire which lost in him one of its noblest rulers. In the cathedral of his favourite town of Speyer, which he himself had founded, he had prepared his tomb where he now lies buried.

Conrad II. married Gisela of Swabia, dowager duchess of that country, a lady of most refined character, devotedly attached to her imperial consort, whom she assisted by counsel and advice to the last day of his life.

#### 14. Henry III., the Black.

(A. D. 1039-1056)

son of the former, was crowned at Aix-la-Chapelle during the father's lifetime and was a worthy successor to his firmly established throne. Soon after his accession Heribert, Archbishop of Milan, did homage to him. Henry III. suppressed the revolts of the dukes of Bohemia and Lorraine, of the Count of Holland, and of other powerful vassals in Germany and Burgundy. He likewise waged war with the Hungarians whom he compelled to submit to him as their liege lord (1045), forced Denmark to acknowledge his imperial rights and, at an interview with the king of France at Ivois, he defended the honour of Germany as became an illustrious monarch and a noble and valiant knight (1056)\*.

<sup>\*)</sup> In "Kahn's History of the Emperors" we learn that during an interview between Henry III. and King Henry I. of France, the latter insulted the German emperor, but when challenged to single combat on that account, he suddenly disappeared during the night (proximâ noete fugâ lapsus).

Henry III. likewise showed his remarkable talents for ruling in his transactions with the clergy; in consequence of dissensions which broke out at Rome, he caused the apostolic throne to be declared vacant and selected a German for that dignity. By the pope Henry was crowned at Rome in the year 1056. After the pope's decease, Henry recommended Germans as his successors, whilst he endeayoured at the same time to promote, as much as possible, strict discipline in the church and the furtherance of science. He thus secured a period of internal peace and tranquillity for the country, such as had not been enjoyed since the days of Charlemagne, and finally raised the imperial anthority to its greatest height. His power was almost absolute, and his dominions extended from the mouth of the Rhone to the Oder, and from the Eider to the Tiber. Yet he appears to have been at times too severe in the exercise of his power, particularly against the Saxons, who showed little attachment to him or any of the Frankish emperors. The rapidity with which the Hungarians shook of the yoke of feudality, the discontent of the German princes with Henry's strict regiment, the rebellion of Lusatia, and the growing power of the Normans in Lower Italy, but more especially the first signs of a rising reaction in Rome against the imperial power, all presaged future troubles. The untimely death of this powerful monarch, just at the most important juncture, robbed the state of its surest and strongest support, and caused the crown of Charlemagne to be placed on the head of a child. Henry III. was buried at Speyer.

The married: 1) Cunihilda, daughter of Cannte the Great of

Denmark; 2) Agnes of Poitou, mother of Henry IV.

### 15. Henry IV., (A. D. 1056-1106)

son of the former, was crowned at Aix-la-Chapelle when but four years old, and on the death of his father succeeded to his throne at the age of six. During his minority he was a victim to the disorder which prevailed in the state, and was carried away from the care of his mother by Hanno of Cologne and other ambitious princes. As a result of his neglected bringing up, and more especially through the misguidance of Adalbert of Bavaria, Henry IV. at an early age committed acts of despotism, extravagance, and folly which were censured by the princes and the papal nuncio at the imperial diet of Frankfort, which he had summoned in order to divorce his consort Bertha. The dissatisfaction now became general, and the Saxons were driven to revolt, His victory of the Unstrut soon involved Henry in a violent dispute with Pope Gregory VII. on the subject. of investitures. Henry and Gregory were not long in recurring to extreme measures. The excommunication of Henry by the pope broke the last ties of obedience between the emperor and his subjects, and the former, seeing himself completely deserted after an assembly of the princes at Trebur, at length resolved to do penance

at Canossa, where he stood barefooted and clad in sackcloth before the papal gate. Encouraged, however, by the proofs of devotion he afterwards met with in Italy, Henry resolved to play a more spirited part, and gathering together his adherents in Italy and Germany he led them on from battle to battle, and finally took Rome itself, banished the hostile pontiff and had himself crowned by an antipope (1084). Henry now reigned nearly 30 years, in spite of his excommunication and the efforts of several anti-emperors, and became extremely popular among his Rhenish and Franconian subjects as a mild but intrepid monarch.

His rivals, all of whom met an untimely end, were:

- 1. Rudolph of Swabia, killed by the emperor's faithful general, Geoffrey de Bouillon, in the battle of the Elster (1080),
- 2. Hermann of Luxemburg, who, being forsaken by his followers, met an unnatural death in 1088,
- 3. Ekbert of Brunswick, who was slain even before he was properly elected (1090),
- 4. Conrad, the emperor's own son, who perished in Italy in the prime of his life (1101).

But the general enthusiasm that prevailed at this time, nearly all over Christendom, for the first great crusade (preached by Urban II. in 1095 and crowned with success in 1099) weakened the power of the emperor so much, that even his younger son Henry, for whom he had always evinced a warm affection and whom he had appointed as his successor in the place of Conrad, was infected by the spirit of rebellion that had been fostered by the sehism in the church. Lead away by spiritual and temporal advisirs, Henry collected an army and marched against his father whom he met at Coblenz. Under pretence of repentance and a desire for reconciliation, he enticed his father to Bingen where he had him taken prisoner and shut up in a eastle in the neighbourhood. By threatening to put his father to death he made him give up the royal insignia and then compelled him to abdicate at Ingelheim. The emperor then fled to Liège where he found himself among friends. The citizens of Cologne had already taken up arms in his favour, when he was released from any further struggle by death.

"Your inheritance is small", was the last message of the dying emperor to his son, "for you have left me nothing". But even his body was not allowed to rest in peace, for after being interred in St. Lambert's Church at Liège, his remains were once more disentombed, as the ban of excommunication had not been annulled. His body was first conveyed to an island in the Maas, and thence to Speyer, where the loyal citizens received it with every sign of esteem and devotion, and laid it in a coffin in the chapel of St. Afra. It was not until five years later, when the pope's absolution arrived, that the body of Henry IV. was finally interred in the Cathedral at Speyer, which he himself had completed and richly

endowed. The ceremony took place with great magnificence in the

presence of his son and many princes.

Henry IV married: 1) Bertha, Margravine of Susa (the mother of Conrad and Henry V.) who returned fidelity and love for the many wrongs done her; 2) Praxedis, also called Agnes or Adelheid, a Russian princess, who had escaped from her Russian consort.

## 16. Henry V., (A. D. 1106–1125)

son of the former; brutal and treacherons as he was when he acquired the throne, so he remained all his life. He was, however, both brave and cunning in battle, as he had soon occasion to show, being very early engaged in a threefold struggle for the restoration of the former imperial power; he bore up against foreign foes, rebellious nobles at home, and the hostility of the Papal See. In this struggle, though he gained several advantages, he was not entirely successful in his endeavour to restore the diminished glory of the imperial throne. His campaigne in Hungary and Poland were not marked by any decisive victory. Soon after his return, he became involved in a number of quarrels with his nobles, whose distrust of him was not unfounded, for he frequently acted very harshly towards them (as for example towards Count Siegfried of the Palatinate, on the occasion of the assembly of the states at Frankfort). These disputes led to incessant hostilities, more especially with the turbulent Saxons; this state of unrest was encouraged and aided by the continued rupture with the church. Nevertheless Henry succeeded in maintaining his authority and in pursuing the same policy as his father in regard to the pope. At the head of a large army he crossed the Alps and, overcoming every resistance, advanced as far as Rome, where he was received with great rejoicings. But at the very beginning of the coronation festivities the quarrel about the investitures broke out anew and this time more violently than ever. Henry V, regardless of the means he employed so that he gained his end, caused Pope Paschal II. and all the cardinals to be seized at the very altar of St. Peter's, dispersed the indignant crowd of Romans who had then rushed upon him, and compelled his captives, whom he took away from Rome with him, to grant him the power of investiture and the right of crowning the emperor. But the ban of excommunication was passed on him, by several synods almost immediately after his return to Germany. In 1116 Henry again appeared in Italy, took possession of the so-called Mathilda estates, and set up an anti-pope on the throne, and, as the latter was able to maintain his position, Gelanius, who had been chosen Pontiff on the death of Paschal, fled to France. On the death of Gelanius and the election of Pope Callistus II, a reconciliation at last took place at Worms, which finally ended the investiture dispute, if not entirely in the sense Gregory VII would have wished, at least not

entirely in favour of the secular power (Pactum Calixtenium, A. D. 1122). The emperor did not enjoy this peace long, for, being enraged at the part France had played against him in the above dispute, he resolved to make a campaign against that country, but was unable to carry it out. France being too well prepared and the German princes disinclined to join him. Soon after Henry V. died leaving no male descendants and was interred at Speyer by the side of the other emperors of that dynasty, of which he was the last representative.

Henry V. married Matilda of England.

#### 17. Lothair,

(A. D. 1125-1137)

Duke of Saxony, Count of Supplinburg. Having been one of the most prominent adversaries of the two last emperors, he was elected emperor at Mainz through the influence of the clergy and, it is reported, against his own desire. Even at his accession he agreed to certain modifications in the Concordat of Worms in favour of the church. He was soon engaged in hostilities against the dukes of Swabia and Franconia, who both belonged to the house of Hohenstaufen and had received their dukedoms from the former imperial house because they felt aggrieved at Lothair's election. He also fought against King Niels of Denmark and his son, Magnus, whom he forced to accept their former feudatory position (1131); moreover he undertook to protect the newly elected Pope Innocent II, whose election had been hotly contested. Lothair accompanied the pope to Rome and was there crowned by him (1135) in the half-conquered town. Shortly afterwards he reduced the Hohenstaufen faction to submission, and secured his power by making an accommodating treaty with the dukes and then, at the head of a large army, undertook a second expedition into Italy at the request of Pope Innocent, who had been driven out of Rome by the anti-pope Anaclet II. who was assisted by the Normans. Lothair conquered Apulia and Calabria, but fell ill on the way home and closed his active and laborious life in a peasant's hut in the Alps. The lands he had conquered in Italy were speedily recovered by the Normans. Lothair left no male issue. He his buried at Königslutter in Brunswick.

Lothair married: Richewza, princess of a Saxon line and the grand daughter of Otto von Nordheim.

#### Swabian Emperors and Kings

the Hohenstaufens.

#### 18. Conrad III.,

A. D. 1138-1152.

duke of Franconia, of the Swabian family of the Ghibellines (Waiblinger), or Hohenstaufens, and grandson by the mother's side of the emperor Henry IV. His election, which had not been carried out strictly in accordance with the law, took place at Coblenz through the influence of the adversaries of Henry the Proud, duke of Bavaria and Saxony (grandson of Guelf IV.), in consequence of which he was soon engaged in a violent struggle with Henry, who, as brother-in-law of the deceased emperor and being supported by the whole powerful family of the Guelfs, had confidently expected to be elected as Lothair's successor.

This protracted and sanguinary struggle forms a sad page in the history of Germany and Italy; the war-cry of the two armies was taken from the names of their chiefs, on one side "Welf!" on the other "Waiblinger!", which afterwards became corrupted into Guelf and Ghibelline and came to signify respectively an adherent of the pope and a partisan of the emperor. Yet amidst all the turmoil of party strife Conrad remained full of humanity and uprightness, as is illustrated in the well-known story of the Women of Weinsberg. Bürger places in his mouth the words, "a prince's word is not to be trifled with, it is immutable". Of this he gave another proof when on the death of his enemy he invested his son with the duchy of Saxony. However, his restless activity which had hitherto only been displayed in securing his position in Germany, was soon destined to be directed into another channel. At a brilliant diet convoked at Frankfort (1142) for the celebration of the nuptials of the widow of Henry the Proud with Conrad's half-brother, Henry of Austria, St. Bernhard suddenly appeared among them and exhorted Conrad to join Louis VII. of France in a new crusade for the delivery of the Holy Sepulchre. Conrad expressed his intention to take part in this crusade at a diet convoked in Speyer (1146). Having caused his son Henry (who died before him) to be elected at Frankfort as his successor, he set off for the Holy Land (1147). But he had scarcely reached Asia Minor when his army was almost completely decimated by hunger, disease, and the sword of the enemy. He succeeded, however, after much difficulty in retreating with a small remnant of his army to Constantinopel, and thence by ship to Syria. However, in spite of the valour shown by the emperor and his knights at Damascus, all their exertions were without avail. On his return to Germany Conrad was obliged to suppress many

revolts and died a few years afterwards, poisoned, as some say, by Roger, King of Sicily, who had good reasons to fear him. His tomb is at Bamberg near that of Henry II. It is asserted that he was the first German monarch who, following probably the example of the Byzantine emperors, adopted the double-headed eagle as the imperial coat-of-arms, whereas former emperors and kings had borne as an emblem of their power one, or sometimes two, single eagles; this also frequently occurred later on.

Conrad III. married Gertrude, daughter of a count of Sulzbach.

#### 19. Frederic I., Barbarossa,

A. D. 1152-1190.

duke of Swabia, nephew of Conrad III, was unanimously elected by the princes at the diet of Frankfort, which city he was ever after partial to and frequently made his place of residence. During his first expedition to Italy (1155) he was crowned emperor at Rome. On his return he waged a successful war against the Poles from whom he wrested Silesia; he also made his authority felt in Denmark, where a dispute had broken out about the succession to the throne; he punished with inexorable severity the excesses committed by several of his nobles and, in short, ruled with more power and authority than any emperor had ever done since the time of Henry III. Soon, however, he was engaged in disputes with the papal see, which before long broke out into open hostilities. Enraged at the arrogance of the Milanese, whom he had only been able to reduce to obedience by force of arms (1158), and under the influence of certain Roman men of law, Frederic now began to enforce his sovereign rights over the towns of Lombardy with great despotism and even in violation of the manners and customs of the country. Pope Alexander, whom Frederic had refused to recognize, now espoused the cause of the oppressed Italians, and fulminated a bull of excommunication against the emperor. Frederic I, on his part, declared himself an ardent supporter of the anti-pope Victor, and a most desperate struggle between church and state began.

In the sanguinary campaign which followed, Frederic took revenge for the insults cast upon him by the Milanese, and totally destroyed Milan (1162). A large army, which was continually being reinforced, enabled Frederic to maintain his supremacy for a long time\*, but the cruel oppressions committed by his subordinates, which he did nothing to prevent, drove his subjects again and again to revolt. At the same time, without any fault of his own a quarrel broke out between him and his old friend Henry the Lion, duke of Saxony and Bavaria. This prince had once saved Frederic's life during an engagement with the Romans, but now, following the

<sup>\*)</sup> Frederic I. made six campaigns to Italy during his reign, in the years 1154, 1155, 1163, 1166, 1174 and 1184. His stay in that country often lasted several years.

dictates of his own hostile feelings, the duke refused to give the emperor his assistance in a most decisive moment, thus causing the loss of the battle of Legnano (1176), in consequence of which defeat the emperor Frederic was compelled to make peace. A reconciliation between Frederic and the Pope Alexander III, then took place at Venice (1177), but not without many sacrifices on the part of the emperor. Shortly afterwards the emperor signed a treaty of peace with the Lombards who acknowledged his supremacy on the same conditions as those granted to his predecessors (1183). Now the emperor had leisure to vent his anger on Henry the Lion. The duke was outlawed at the diets of Würzburg and Gelnhausen (1180) and after a brave resistance lost his duchies of Bavaria and Saxony (the former was given to Otto of Wittelsbach and the latter to Bernhard of Anhalt) and was compelled to leave the territories of the German empire. Meanwhile the sad tidings of the fall of Jerusalem, for the delivery of which Frederic had fought in his youth, reached the emperor's ears and incited him to new chivalrous exploits. Though already advanced in years Frederic once more took up the cross and fought his way with an army of veterans through the Byzantine empire, crossed over to Asia Minor, defeated the Seldshoucks in two battles, and took the town of Iconium. But when near Tarsus he met his death in the small but rapid river Saleph, where he had gone to bathe when overheated. His remains repose at Antioch, or as some say, at Tyre.

According to a popular tradition Frederic Barbarossa is not dead, but is still sleeping in a magic trance in the subterraneous halls under the Kyffhäuser mountain, and will not awake until the honour and glory of former times return once more to the German nation. Frederic I. married: 1. Adelheid of Voburg, whom he divorced; 2. Beatrice, a Burgundian countess, mother of Henry VI. and of

King Philip.

# 20. Henry VI., (A. D. 1190-1197)

son of the former, was acknowledged as Frederic's successor even during his father's life-time. He was crowned at Rome on his first expedition to Italy (1191) and followed the same policy as Frederic in strengthening the authority of his house, and increasing the power of Germany and Italy. In this he showed the same talent and strength of will, but was completely destitute of his father's nobility of soul; he had nothing but his own interests in view and cared little for the laws of heaven, the rights of man, or his own honour; nevertheless he was unsuccessful in his attempts to make the crown of Germany, which had gradually become an elective one, hereditary in his house, nor had he any greater success in his first expedition against Apulia and Sicily, where he tried to assert the claims of his consort, a Norman princess; Naples made a bold resistance and the plague decimated his army (1191). The German princes, who

were under no feudal obligation to do these services, showed little inclination to follow the emperor in a second expedition. But Henry contrived, in an unexpected way, to get sufficient money for raising another army. Richard I, Coeur de Lion, having been seized by Duke Leopold of Austria and thrown into prison, in revenge for some insults the duke had received at Richard's hands when in Palestine, the German emperor ordered the English king to be brought in chains to Trifels and charged him, before the diet assembled at Haguenau, with certain crimes stated to have been committed against the German empire and against Christendom, but, under the threats of the Guelf party and certain other German nobles, he at last set Richard free on the payment of a large ransom of one hundred thousand silver marks. With this sum the emperor was enabled to raise an army and having procured a fleet from Genoa and Pisa, by confirming their privileges and giving some insincere promises, he succeeded in conquering Naples, Apulia, Calabria, and Sicily without meeting any great opposition (1194). In these provinces he now committed unheard of cruelties, but they were, if possible, surpassed when he came a second time to suppress a revolt in these turbulent though heavily oppressed countries. Suddenly and unexpectedly the emperor died at Messina (it is believed an unnatural death). He was scarcely 32 years old when he died and may be said to have been a scourge to humanity. Had he lived longer, he would doubtless have given a different turn to the portentous events which were about to occur and which were destined to exercise such an enormous influence over the whole of Europe. He remains are buried in the cathedral of Palermo.

Henry VI. married Constance, a Norman princess in Sicily.

#### 21. Philip,

(A. D. 1198-1208)

Duke of Swabia, and brother of the late emperor. Having unsuccessfully attempted to secure the throne for his nephew Frederic, who was not yet of age, he was himself elected by the adherents of his house, though in an illegal manner. He was first crowned at Mainz, and afterwards at Aix-la-Chapelle. Shortly after his accession Philip became engaged in a war against Otto of Brunswick, who had been elected king by the Guelf party. Philip was now obliged to undertake many ruinous campaigns and sieges, and fight a great number of battles; in the beginning he was little favoured with success, but later on he became more fortunate and gained a decisive battle near Cologne (1206). He was not able, however, to subdue his rival completely, and being besides under a ban of excommunication pronounced by Pope Celestine and afterwards renewed by Pope Innocent III, he was finally compelled to suffer many losses and much humiliation. This state of humiliation before the church continued until Philip, who had just been released from excommunication, and was looking forward to better days, was assassinated at Bamberg by Otto of Wittelsbach (the younger), an act of private vengeance. Philip lies buried in the Royal Chancel in the cathedral of Speyer. It was by him that Bohemia was raised to the dignity of a kingdom.

Philip married Irene, a Greek princess (daughter of the Byzantine emperor, Isaak Angelo) also known by the name of Maria. She died

some months after her imperial consort\*).

#### 22. Otto IV of Brunswick

(A. D. 1208-1218)

a Guelf and son of Henry the Lion, was unanimously proclaimed king at the imperial diet in Frankfort immediately after Philip's death. Having passed sentence of banishment on the regicide, Otto of Wittelsbach, the emperor now undertook an expedition to Italy where he was once more crowned emperor (1209); shortly after this event he was excommunicated by the pope as he showed himself just as unwilling to submit to the will of the Papal See as ever a Ghibelline had been, and more especially for having made an unjustifiable attack on Apulia. The adherents of the Ghibellines in Germany now broke out into open revolt and proclaimed Frederic of Hoheustaufen their emperor. The latter made an alliance with the French and yielded up some territory to the Danes in order to gain their favour.

Otto on his part sought assistance from the English, with whom he had already been on very good terms, but instead of remaining in Germany and defending his throne, he advanced against the French at the head of a large army which had been gathered in the Low Countries and was assisted by a large body of English soldiery. Notwithstanding his great personal valour, he was defeated in the battle of Bovines (1214) and lost thereby a great deal of his authority in Germany. Little by little he retired from public affairs and devoted the rest of his life to doing penance. He expired, at Harzbourg almost forgotten by the world. He lies buried at Brunswick.

Otto IV. married: 1. Beatrice of Hohenstaufen, daughter of King

Philip; 2. Mary of Brabant.

#### 23. Frederic II,

(A. D. 1218—1250)

king of Sicily, and son of the emperor Henry VI, had been appointed successor to the throne during his father's lifetime, but was afterwards passed over in consideration of his youth. He was, however, carefully educated by his guardian, pope Innocent III, and was declared emperor in opposition to Otto IV. by the adherents of the

<sup>\*)</sup> By Walter von der Vogelweide she was called "a rose without thorns, a harmless dove" ("Rose ane dorn, ain tube sunder gallen").

Hohenstaufens (1212), but was only crowned at Mainz in the year 1213 and afterwards at Aix-la-Chapelle in 1215. It was only after the death of Otto IV, however, that his claim to the throne was undisputed. He began his reign at a time of political revolutions, and his name is connected with some of the most important events in the history of the German Empire. Many of his acts, too, had direct reference to Frankfurt, some of them being of the greatest importance for that town. He held several imperial diets there and caused his son Henry to be elected Roman king (1220); he presented the citizens of the town with an old castle, that it might be pulled down and a church (St. Leonard's) be built on the site\*), and, by withdrawing for ever the royal administrator, he laid the first foundation to the freedom of Frankfort as a city. The family of Wittelsbach, which had rendered eminent services to the Hohenstaufens, was invested with the Palatinate (1215). In Mayence he ordered a law concerning the public peace to be issued (1235). The chief duties of the government he confided to his son Henry, who often resided at Frankfort, but when Henry, was condemned soon after to imprisonment for conspiracy (1235), the king charged his other son Conrad with the government of Germany; he himself preferred to reside in Italy, the country of his birth, and the events which took place in that country kept him absent from Germany during the greater part of his reign \*\*). Frederick II. is one of the most brilliant figures in the history of the world. He was very well read in science, master of several languages, an excellent legislator for his own kingdom of Sicily, a patron of poetry and art, and one of the most intrepid and able monarchs that ever reigned. His life was one long struggle against the prevailing ideas of his age, which was of the greater importance, as he reigned at a time when the destiny of the following centuries was about to be decided.

Shortly after he had been crowned at Rome (1220) he became engaged in a series of contests with the papal see. He had undertaken certain obligations towards the church which he afterwards declined to fulfil, so that Gregory IX published a ban of excommunication against him (1227). Notwithstanding this, he later on undertook the crusade he had so long delayed; he delivered Jerusalem out of the hands of the Saracens by making a treaty with the sultan of Egypt, and then had himself crowned king of the Holy Land (1229). On his return a somewhat reluctant reconciliation with the pope took place, but was not of long duration. When the emperor made war against the Lombards and, after the victory of Cortenuova (1237), annexed Sardinia and subdued all the cities of Upper Italy with few exceptions, a new ban of excommunication was published against him by the pope (1239). The Guelfs and Ghibellines (among

<sup>\*)</sup> It is believed that the palace of Charlemagne stood on the site here mentioned.

<sup>\*\*)</sup> Frederic II. resided in Germany from the year 1212 till 1220 and for the most of the time between 1235—1237, the rest of his life was spent abroad.

the latter perhaps the most terrible was Ezzelino III, podestà of Padua) made war upon each other to the knife and although, after the death of Gregory IX, Frederic II. was not so arbitrary in his measures against the bishops and cardinals as heretofore, and even entered into negociations with Pope Innocent IV, yet all his endeavours to put a stop to the strife of the rival factions were of no avail, and the pope fled from Italy. A council summoned by Innocent IV. at Lyon declared that the emperor had forfeited all his crowns (1245) and the ecclesiastical electors declared Heinrich Raspe of Thuringia (the Priest-king) to be their emperor. In spite of a victory gained by himself near Frankfort, the anti-emperor was not able to gain ground; he was defeated later on at Ulm and died shortly after, in 1247. Another anti-emperor was then elected, William of Holland, but the town of Aix-la-Chapelle refused to open its gates to him when he came there to be crowned. Other towns followed this example, as they were devoted to their emperor, notwithstanding that he had practically forsaken Germany for Italy, and had not even come personally to their assistance when Silesia was invaded by the Mongolians, but had confided the task to his two sons\*).

Notwithstanding the great number of his enemies, his defeat in the battle of Parma (1248), and other disasters, Frederic remained a powerful and dreaded monarch till the end of his life (though he grew gloomy and suspicious of mind) and when the tidings of his death came across the Alps, the Germans would not for a long time

credit the report.

An exact and trustworthy account of his death cannot be given, even at the present day, as the details supplied on the subject are so contradictory. Frederic lies buried at Palermo. He was married to: 1. Constance of Aragon mother of king Henry; 2) Iolanthe (or Isabella) of Jerusalem, mother of Conrad IV; 3. Isabella of England, and many healthy and flourishing children gave promise of a long line of successors. But Fate had already destined the extinction of this house with which disappeared at the same time the lasthopes of the union of the empire, as it had been during the pastcenturies and as it was never to be again. The German empire, the unity of which had been insensibly undermined by the dying out of several lines of emperors, by the endeavours of those emperors to extend their dominions abroad, and by the incessant struggles with the church, came at last to consist of a large number of states of various sizes, each of which showed little desire to act in union for the common interest of all, and over them an elected king or emperor who frequently lacked the power to compel his nobles to obey his orders. Seven electoral princes\*\*) enjoyed the exclusive

<sup>\*)</sup> Fortunately for the country the Mongolians retired from Germany after the battle of Liegnitz, through Moravia and Hungary.

<sup>\*\*)</sup> There were frequently only six electors; after the Thirty Years' War there were eight; later on nine, then again eight, and during the last years of the empire there were ten.

right of electing the emperor; the feudal possessions of the various states had now been hereditary for nearly two centuries and the sovereign powers of the electoral princes was fully established and had also been legally acknowledged by Frederic II.

In Franconia and Swabia the ducal dignity ceased with the extinction of the Hohenstaufen line, and the knights in those countries, as well as in Alsace and on the Rhine, were now independent; from

this time likewise dates the freedom of many cities.

The internal condition of the country now began to undergo a change, partly by the adoption of some Roman laws, and partly in consequence of more indirect causes. Even the mental and social character of the Germans, which had acquired, among the upper classes at least, a chivalrous and poetical stamp from their intercourse with many foreign nations, and as a consequence of the crusades undertaken and commanded personally by the Swabian emperors, as is shown in the beautiful language of the Niebelungen lays, now began to change very much. Minstrelsy began to die out gradually, and even the art of music, the sister of poetry, was neglected, and remained for a long time as it had been left by Franco of Cologne, who had brought about considerable reforms in that art. The most conspicuous of the German scholars of the middle-ages, Albertus Magnus, also flourished just at this turning point in German history. On the other hand, the middle-class citizens as a body now began to make their influence felt, and with their increasing power commerce, trade, architecture, and the fine arts generally, began to flourish. The natural vitality of the nation began to struggle forward, under the guidance of Providence and through the most difficult political troubles, to new and brighter destinies.

## The Interregnum.

(A. D. 1250—1273.)

The following kings were not generally acknowledged, and their authority did not make itself felt in every part of the German empire\*).

1. Conrad IV, Frederic II's valiant son, perished in Italy (1250

— 12**5**4).

2. William of Holland, who was slain by the Frisians (1250

-1256).

3. Richard of Cornwall, brother of King Henry III. of England; some of the electoral princes sold him the imperial crown, but were unable to confer on him the power attached to that dignity (1257—1272).

<sup>\*)</sup> All their dispositions in matters concerning the empire, if their election had not been confirmed by the majority of the electoral princes, were declared invalid by an edict of Rudolph I. For this reason their portraits are not hung in the Emperors' Hall.

4. Alfonso of Castile, was chosen by some electoral princes, in opposition to Richard, in 1257, but he never came to Germany.

The house of Hohenstaufen became extinct and with it the German dominion in Italy came to an end. The last three kings

of this line were:

Enzio, a son of Frederic II, who was taken prisoner by the Bolognese at the battle of Fossalta, when he was but 24 years old. He never regained his liberty and died in prison after a captivity of 23 years (1272).

Manfred, King of Naples, a natural son of Frederic II, was

killed in the battle of Benevento (1266).

Conradin, son of Conrad IV, the last of the Hohenstaufens was beheaded at Naples with his young friend Frederic of Baden-Austria after an attempt to regain the crown of his ancestors; he

was only 16 years of age.

Almost the whole of Germany was at this time a prey to anarchy and the law of the strongest, nevertheless the Confederation of Towns on the Rhine succeeded in preserving a certain order in that part of the country. It was at this time that the Cologne cathedral was begun, the magnificent Freiburg cathedral at Breisgau almost completed, and Ervin of Steinbach made his incomparable design for the Strasburg cathedral, all of which tended to spread the fame of German architecture over the whole of Europe. About the same time, too, several cities in North Germany united for the first time to form the Hanse League, which later on developed to such a power in the Northern Seas. The knights of the Teutonic Order settled at this period in Prussia, and after a long and sanguinary struggle with the inhabitants colonised the country again with Germans, then completed the conquest of Livony and Courland, and began, in order to secure these possessions, those bloody wars with the Poles, Lithuanians, and Russians which lasted with few interruptions for more than a century.

## Emperors and Kings of various Houses.

## 24. Rudolph 1.

A. D. 1273-1291.

Count of Habsburg in Aargau (Switzerland), was elected in Frankfort and crowned in Aix-la-Chapelle. The emperor Frederic II. was his godfather. By prudence, courage, and good fortune Rudolph I. succeeded in re-establishing, to a certain extent, the imperial power in Germany. His severe laws did much to suppress the robber-knights, and he managed to bring many rebellious vassals to sub-

mission, either by force or fair words, among the latter the most important was Ottocar, king of Bohemia (1276), who afterwards paid for his rebellions with his life, in the battle of Marschfelde near Vienna (1278). For his own family he secured Austria and Styria. made his authority respected in a large part of Burgundy (declining proudly the intervention of France), convoked representatives of the towns to discuss imperial matters, promoted the usage of the German language by causing the imperial decrees, for which hitherto Latin had always been employed, to be written in German, and in many respects he can justly claim to be a restorer of the German Empire. Nevertheless his work remained incomplete, for the electoral princes, who began to fear that the emperor would again become too powerful, declined at the diet of Frankfort to acknowledge his son Albert as his successor, which would have made the royal power more secure. Mortified by this refusal, Rudolph left Frankfort (a town to which he had granted many liberties) and soon after died at Germersheim, deeply lamented by his countrymen to whose welfare he had devoted all his activity and strength, without directing his ambition towards Italy as most of his predecessors had done. His tomb is among those of the other emperors at Spever, where in the presentiment of death, he had expressed a desire to be laid. Rudolph I. married: 1. Anna of Hochberg, mother of the future emperor Albert I.; 2. Agnes of Burgundy.

## 25. Adolphus, A. D. 1292—1298

Count of Nassau, a brave warrior but possessed of little real power, was elected at Frankfort under very unusual circumstances. In order to avoid the appearance of an hereditary right to the imperial crown, the electors had refused to elect Albert, the son of the late emperor. Adolphus soon strove to acquire for his own house both Thuringia and Meissen, but in the princes of the two houses, Frederic "with the bitten Cheek" and Tiezmann, he found two adversaries who offered a desperate resistance and succeeded in detracting greatly from the royal authority. In addition to this he began a quarrel with the imperious archbishop of Mayence, who had done much to raise him to the throne; in union with several other electors Gerhard of Mayence now declared Adolphus' throne forfeited, and set up a very powerful rival in the person of Albert of Austria. The emperor Adolphus succeeded, however, in gathering a great number of adherents around him, chiefly from the loyal Rheinsh towns (there were also many from Frankfort) and a battle was fought at Goelheim, near Worms, in which the emperor was mortally wounded by Duke Albert himself and died on the battlefield. He was laid to rest with the other emperors at Speyer and a stone erected near Goelheim and existing at the present day, marks the place where

Adolphus was married to Imagna, Countess of Limbourg.

# 25. Albert I., (A. D. 1298—1308)

Duke of Austria, sou of the emperor Rudolph I, was elected emperor at Frankfort after the death of Adolphus. He very soon came into conflict with pope Boniface VIII. and with the Rhenish electors, but he opposed them vigorously and was victorious; he then made the electoral princes, who had intended for him the same fate as his predecessor, feel the weight of his power. On the other hand, he was not successful in his designs upon Thuringia, nor was he able to extend his own hereditary dominions as he had intended. Soon after the expulsion of the imperial bailiffs out of Switzerland by the inhabitants, made it necessary for him to appear in that country, where he was treacherously murdered by his nephew, John of Swabia, and some companions. The motive for the crime was a petty offence which the young prince believed to have been put upon him.

"The king was riding down from Stein to Baden, On towards Rheinfeld where the court resides, With him the princes John and Leopold And an illustrions train of high born lords. But when they reached the ferry of the Reuss, Where they must needs cross over in a boat, The faithless traitors pressed into the one Which held the king, thus separating him From his imperial train. When once across And riding through a field - (an ancient town From heathen times is said to lie beneath) -The ancient Habsburg eastle still in sight, That stately eradle of his noble race, Duke John thrust deep his dagger in his neek, And through his body went false Rudolf's spear Whilst Esehenbaeh eleft through his royal helm; Then down he sank all welt'ring in his blood, Assassinated by his own false friend. His faithful friends, who from the other bank Beheld the bloody deed, were parted by the stream And could but raise their unavailing eries of woe. Beside the way a woman chanced to sit; 'Twas in her lap the emp'ror breathed his last." Translated from Schiller.

Albert I. married Elisabeth of Tyrol. He lies buried at Speyer by the side of king Adolphus.

# 27. Henry VII., (A. D. 1308–1313.)

Count of Luxemburg, a knight in the true sense of the word, renowned for his prowess in the lists, and universally respected for his talents and generous feelings, was solemnly elected at Frankfort, after a preliminary deliberation in the castle of Rense. The first thing Henry did was to banish all the regicides, as well as Count Eberhard of Wurtemburg who had constantly opposed every effort to restore order in the empire. He invested his son John with the royal crown of Bohemia (1310), and then went to Italy with the intention of restoring the imperial power; the Italians had not recognised German authority for more than sixty-four years. The success of his compaign was swift and complete, and he was crowned emperor at Rome in 1312. During an expedition against king Robert of Naples, the emperor fell sick and died in the prime of his life. Some historians maintain that he was poisoned. He lies buried in his loyal town of Pisa, but his soul must rest in the dwelling place of the upright and blessed. The immortal Dante, when mentioning the emperor Henry VII. in his Divina Commedia, says, "There, whither thy eyes are cast, dwells the noble Henry. who came to restore order in Italy before it was inclined to receive it".

Henry VII. married: 1. Esther, daughter of the Duke of Silesia; 2. Marguerite of Brabant.

## 28. Frederic (III.) the Fair, A. D. 1314—1330.

Duke of Austria, son of Albert I., was proclaimed king and elected emperor at Sachsenhausen by several electors and other princes, whilst (but one day later) the duke of Bavaria,

# 29. Louis IV. (III.) of Bavaria, A. D. 1814-1847,

was elected by four (or five) other electors, on the election ground near Frankfort which immediately opened its gates to him. Frederic began to lay siege to the town, but was soon obliged to retire for want of victuals. In consequence of this loyalty, Louis always showed great favour to Frankfort, so that the town owes him many privileges, among others its Easter-fair\*), and the enlargement of its walls. The struggle between the two rivals for the imperial crown lasted many years, and the whole empire was thrown into confusion. Frederic's army was defeated at the battle of Morgarten (1315) and another battle at Esslingen remained undecided (1316). At last, by the battle of Mühldorf, the long struggle was brought to an end; Frederic was taken prisoner and Louis remained sole emperor (1325). Now began one of the most generous strifes that has ever been recorded in history. Frederic regained his liberty by renouncing all claim to the crown and promising to put down his own party. Finding that he was unable to fulfil this latter condition, Frederic returned to Louis and gave himself up as a prisoner; from that time he joined the emperor Louis to fight against his former friends. Louis, admiring the nobleness of his rival's character,

<sup>\*)</sup> The fair which is held at Frankfort in autumn is of much older origin, the privilege having been granted in the time of the Carlovingiaus.

became from that time his warmest friend. Being compelled to make an expedition against the Austrians, Louis entrusted the government during his absence to his former enemy and rival, and never had reason to repent of his generosity\*).

Everything now went well with the emperor Louis, who successfully resisted the intrigues of the French court, the excommunications of the pope (who was leagued with France), and the hostilities of Duke Leopold of Austria. Having settled his quarrel with king Frederic by the treaty of Munich (1325), and invested his own son with the government of Brandenburg, the emperor Louis now turned his attention to Italy, where Robert the Good, king of Naples, who had made an alliance with the pope and France, was trying to overwhelm the Ghibellines. At first Louis was successful, and had himself crowned at Rome, though not in a perfectly legal manner. The repeated bans of excommunication fulminated against him by the pope, against whom he had set up an anti-pope, the defection of the Romans, and the warlike preparations of the Guelfs, compelled him at last, as he did not receive any assistance from Germany, to retire beyond the Alps, where meanwhile his former rival had died (1330). Uninterrupted quarrels with the papal see at Avignon embittered the remainder of his life. The most humble proposals of peace were rejected by pope John XXII and his successors; part of the clergy however, espoused the cause of the emperor, learned men took up his defence in public writings, nor did the electors prove indifferent to the honour of the empire and their own rights.

At a convention held at Rense, the electors confirmed the old principle of the independence of the German crown from any foreign power, and Louis ordered the resolution to be publichy read at the imperial diet of Frankfort, and had the edict of excommunication torn from the door of the cathedral and burnt by the common hangman in the market-place (Samstagsberg) in his own presence and that of the electoral princes. Unfortunately a quarrel shortly after arose between him and John, the restless king of Bohemia, who had long been one of his most devoted adherents; several unimportant differences had already been adjusted between them, when the divorce of Marguerite Maultasch, and the seizure of the Tyrol (1341) made the rupture complete. A party now arose in favour of John's son Charles, who, through the special influence of the papal see, had been elected king at Rense. In spite of his influential protectors, Charles was not able to get the power into his hands until after the decease of the emperor Louis, which took place very soon after while hunting near Munich. It was during this reign that gunpowder was invented.

Louis IV. (III) was married to: 1. Beatrice, daughter of the duke of Silesia; 2. Marguerite of Holland.

<sup>\*)</sup> See Schiller's poem "Deutsche Treue".

# 30. Guenther,

Count of Schwarzburg, was elected by the adherents of the late emperor and antagonists of Charles IV (the electors of Mayence, the Palatinate, Brandenburg, and Saxony-Lauenburg) after a previous deliberation at Frankfort. Guenther only consented, however, to accept the crown on being assured by the electors that he ought to do so "for Heaven's sake" (i. e. not for money or property). Guenther then appeared with an army of knights before the gates of Frankfort; however, it was not until he had remained several weeks in the election-field outside the town, and a second solemn election, at which his rival Charles failed to appear, had taken place, that the gates of Frankfort were thrown open to him. In accordance with the ancient custom, Guenther was then conducted to the cathedral, raised upon the altar, and proclaimed king. On the Römerberg (Samstagsberg) he received the homage of his subjects, and shortly after, having gathered an army around him, he marched against Charles who lay encamped near Mayence, though he was feeling indisposed at the time. A few days later he became worse and returned to Frankfort, where he died in the monastery of the knights of St. John. According to some historians he was poisoned. He died before he had been crowned; it is asserted by some historians that even before his return to Frankfort he had agreed by treaty to renounce his claim to the crown in favour of his rival. Guenther's tomb is still to be seen in the cathedral of Frankfort. At his funeral, twenty counts of the empire carried the coffin, and Charles himself, as well as the electors who were at that time in Frankfort and a great number of dukes and lords, were present at the burial service. The monument erected to this emperor in the cathedral of Frankfort was severely damaged when pulled down in the year 1743; yet the main part of it is still in existence and could very easily be restored. The somewhat damaged Old-German inscription runs somewhat as follows:

> "Falsche Untreue Schande ziemt, Dass stäte Treue Schaden nimmt. Untreue nahm Gewinnes Hort Untreue falsch mit Giftes Wort".

Guenther was married to Elisabeth, countess of Hohenstein.

#### 31. Charles IV., A. D. 1349—1378

King of Bohemia, of the house of Luxemburg, grandson of Henry VII, was unanimously acknowledged as emperor after Guenther's death. Charles gave wise laws and institutions to his hereditary dominions, and granted many privileges to the city of Frankfort, among others the right to elect its own mayor. The imperial dignity,

however, was not enhanced by the new emperor, as he sold or mortgaged the greater part of the territory still pertaining to the empire, whilst he took the greatest care to increase his own hereditary dominions. To do him justice, it must be said that he did all in his power to put a stop to the cruel persecution of the Jews which had been going on in Germany ever since a great earthquake had taken place, and the scourge called the "Black Death" had spread over the central parts of Europe. He likewise did his best to put down the prevailing private feuds. Charles made two expeditions to Italy; on the first he was crowned at Romc (1355), but not without yielding to conditions which were derogatory to his dignity as an emperor. His second expedition (1368) brought him as little glory as the first. On the other hand, it is to Charles IV. that the German empire owes the Golden Bull\*), the fundamental law by which the prerogatives of the electoral college were finally laid down. The Golden Bull was proclaimed in the year 1356 at the diets of Nuremberg

Charles's learning and knowledge of languages has often been a subject of praise; of the latter he gave an eminent proof by writing a history of his own life in Latin. He was buried at Prague, where he had founded the first university in Germany (1348). Prague is also indebted to him for many other beautiful public buildings. Charles IV. was the last German emperor that was crowned king of Burgundy, a title which had long lost all political importance.

Charles IV. was married to: 1. Blanca de Valois; 2. Agnes, a countess Palatine; 3. Anna of Silesia, mother of king Wenceslaus;

4. Elisabeth of Pomerania, mother of king Sigismund.

# 32. Wenceslaus, (A. D. 1378-1400)

King of Bohemia, son of Charles IV, had been elected at Frankfort during the lifetime of his father, by the princes of the empire whom his father, had won over by means of bribes. Addicted by nature to indolence, drunkenness, and violence, he ruled as a tyrant over his hereditary kingdom of Bohemia, and showed the greatest indifference to the affairs of the German empire; this, however, was not unwelcome to the rulers of the different states, as they had long been accustomed to do all in their power to prevent the emperor from acquiring too much influence over public affairs in Germany, the reason being that they were too selfish and too jealous of their own power. Under these circumstances the ill-feeling that existed between the upper and lower classes, which had greatly increased since the middle classes had become much more powerful, now broke out into

<sup>\*)</sup> It was called the "Golden Bull" from the gold scal attached to it. By this bull Frankfurt was acknowledged as the town where the emperors was to be elected, in Aix-la-Chapelle he was to be crowned, and in Nuremberg the emperor was to hold his first court-day.

open hostilities, and resulted in a long and sanguinary struggle. The freemen and the free-towns in Switzerland, Swabia, Bavaria, on the Rhine, and in Franconia, fought many battles against their princes and nobility, the most important of which were those at Reutlingen (1377), Sempach (1386), Naefels, Doeffingen, Worms (1388), and other places.

Unfortunately for the town of Frankfort it also became engaged in these quarrels. After having successfully resisted an assault made by the knights of the "League of the Lion" (1380), and having joined the great "League of the Cities", at Constance (1385), Frankfort was compelled to submit to the lords of Cronberg, having been defeated in a decisive battle in 1389. During these events, so important for the political development of the country, the emperor played an equivocal and unworthy part. The double papal election, which took place at the beginning of his reign and caused a serious schism in the church, troubled Wenceslaus as little as the civil troubles in his own dominions. At last, in the year 1394, he suffered the indignity of being made a prisoner by his own subjects and relations. He was afterwards released but made such a bad use of his freedom that, at a diet held in Frankfort, he was declared by four electors of the empire to have forfeited the imperial crown. Wenceslaus lived a long time after this event and, in spite of many vicissitudes, remained king of Bohemia to the end of his life. He died of a fit of apoplexy in the moment when he was about to kill one of his pages with his own sword. His tomb is still to be seen in the town of Prague.

Wenceslaus married: 1. Joan; 2. Sophia, both princesses of the house of Bayaria.

# 33. Ruppert, (A. D. 1400—1410)

Elector and Palatine of the Rhine, belonged to the house of Wittelsbach. Having been raised to the imperial throne by the Rhenish electors at Rense, Rupert soon appeared before the walls of Frankfort, and waited six weeks in vain for Wenceslaus to come and contest his right, whereupon he made his solemn entry into the town. was compelled, nevertheless, to get himself crowned at Cologne, as Aix-la-Chapelle showed little inclination to open its gates to him. Rupert's reign was no happier than that of his predecessor; for although he was just, brave, and endowed with many virtues and accomplishments and always endeavoured to promote the welfare and uphold the honour of the empire both at home and in Italy, yet he was defeated in his campaign against Visconti of Milan (1401), and was not even able to maintain order this side of the Alps, being left almost without assistance by the nobles of his empire and not even recognised by some classes of the people. An imperial diet held at Frankfort to discuss a settlement of the Italian question (but without any result) was the last important act of his life. In 1410 death delivered him from a situation which he had accepted with more ambition than prudence, and for the maintenance of which he required more power than was ever really granted him.

Rupert was interred at Heidelberg, where his tomb is still to be seen. He married Elisabeth, daughter of a burgrave of Nurem-

berg.

## 34. Sigismund,

(A. D. 1411-1437)

King of Hungary and afterwards King of Bohemia, elector of Brandenburg, and brother of King Wenceslaus, was elected at Frankfort though not without a rival. After the death of Jodocus of Mähren, his competitor, who died shortly afterwards, Sigismund was elected a second time and unanimously proclaimed emperor. It was mainly through his exertions that the Council of Constance was convoked, and the great Schism in the Church brought to an end. Shortly afterwards, likewise at Constance, Sigismund allowed John Huss to be burnt to death, though he had himself granted him a safe-conduct. This caused the outbreak of the dreadful war of the Hussites in 1419. During the long and sanguinary struggle several imperial armies were defeated by the Bohemian commanders Ziska, Procop, and others. A great part of Germany having been devastated, another council was convoked at Basle (1431), when, by the granting of a number of concessions a reconciliation was brought about between the moderate Hussites (the so-called Calixtines) and Sigismund, who had meantime been crowned by the pope (1433). Thus in the last year of his life Sigismund was enabled to take possession of the crown of Bohemia.

Among the most important acts of government carried out by Sigismund was the elevation of the house of Hohenzollern to the electorate of Brandenburg, a proceeding of the greatest consequence in the history of the nation, and secondly the sentence of outlawry on Frederic duke of Austria (Tyrol), which he ordered to be carried out by the Swiss and which had also lasting consequences for the empire. The town of Frankfort, where the emperor held many diets, is indebted to Sigismund for many favours and privileges, as it is to nearly all the emperors who followed him. Sigismund is said to have been acquainted with several languages; besides German, he spoke fluently Latin, Bohemian, Hungarian, French, and Italian. He was the last male offspring of the house of Luxemburg, and was, moreover, an extremely handsome man. His last resting-place is in Grosswardein.

Sigismund was married to: 1) Mary of Hungary, of the house of Anjou; 2) Barbara of Scilly, whom he caused to be imprisoned for conspiracy.

## House of Austria.

Habsburg Line.

## 35. Albert II.,

(A. D. 1438-1439).

Duke of Austria and King of Hungary, was elected at Frankfort and shortly afterwards took possession of the crown of Bohemia, which he defended successfully against a Polish competitor. He showed ability and the best intentions in the administration of his dominions, but died eighteen months after his accession to the throne, on returning from an unsuccessful expedition which he had undertaken against the Turks in Hungary; he was buried in Stuhlweissenburg.

Albert II. married Elisabeth, daughter of the emperor Sigismund.

## 36. Frederic III. (IV.), (A. D. 1440—1493.)

duke of Austria, (of the Styria line) was elected at Frankfort; after a long hesitation he accepted the crown offered him and governed over the country without any semblance of energy or authority, for fifty three years. His whole reign was filled with incessant disorders at home and imminent dangers from abroad. On the western frontier of the empire continued incursions were being made by the Armagnaes (troops of French mercenaries) who desolated the land, with which they had unfortunately become acquainted while serving in the pay of the emperor against the Swiss cantons. In the east. the ravages of the Turks had become more daring since the fall of Constantinopel (1453) and, what is worse, had remained unpunished. On the other hand Frederic succeeded in bringing the church disputes to a conclusion, though in a manner that did not meet the expectations of the German nation, for by the treaty of Aschaffenburg (1447) he refused all further protection to the Council of Basle. In his own hereditary dominions the emperor had many adversities, either through family disputes or the rebellion of his nobles. He suffered defeats at the hands of Georg Podiebrad of Bohemia (1466), and Matthias Corvinus of Hungary (1477 and 1485), whilst Count Frederic the Victorious of the Palatinate openly defied his commands. In other parts of Germany, too, there was no cessation to revolts of every kind. These and other evils were frequently the subject of discussions at the diets of Frankfort, but always without any definite result. The greatest sufferers by this lawless state of affairs were the peasantry, who had much to suffer even under the best government, as serfdom still prevailed in most of the states; yet the other classes, too, were far from being satisfied, for a cruel code of laws often creates more misery than the worst state of lawlessness. Nay, even the law itself was a subject of continual strife among the different high courts of law in the distracted country. The machinations of the Vehmic secret court of Westphalia also provoked the loudest complaints. Even the emperor himself and his chancellor were summoned before the free tribunal to answer for his life and honour. Yet amidst all this confusion, and in spite of violent internal struggles, the towns of Germany continued growing and flourishing. Commerce had reached its highest state of development, and with it industry and art were developed by the thriving citizens, who, be ing armed for mutual defence, could now enjoy their opulence in their own way. It was at this time that Gutenberg discovered the art of printing in Mayence\*). Notwithstanding the decline of the imperial power, Germany was still respected and feared abroad, as has been attested by many foreign historians and statesmen. Although the Teutonic Order was obliged to yield up Western Prussia to the Poles at the peace of Thorn, the powerful duke of Burgundy did not succeed in his designs against the territories of the Rhine, Lorraine, and Switzerland, as he everywhere met with a most obstinate resistance. The town of Neuss, to the assistance of which Frederic had hastened in person, was besieged by Charles the Bold with an army of sixty thousand men and was vainly assaulted fiftysix times\*\*). Yet though Charles's army was exhausted from the long seige, and Frederic's army was far superior in number and strength, yet the latter entered into negociations with his warlike enemy, and in doing so sought only his own personal advantage. Frederic seemed to forget that the dukes of Lorraine and Austria, the imperial towns of Alsace, and the Swiss Confederation, formed part of the German empire; moreover, that the Confederates had declared war against the duke of Burgundy at the emperor's express command and in the name of the empire. Notwithstanding this weakness on the part of the emperor, the peace which was concluded was honourable for the German nation; for Charles the Bold by his continual defeats had lost both fame and reputation, as he was afterwards to lose his life (1477). Frederic III. lived long enough to see the marriage of Mary of Burgundy, the daughter of Charles the Bold, with his son Maximilian (1477), and the election of the latter as Roman King (1486); he also lived to see Flanders, which had revolted, brought once more to subjection, shortly after which he died and his remains were buried at Vienna.

Frederic III. was married to Eleonora of Portugal.

<sup>\*)</sup> The first printing presses abroad were mostly set up by Germans. Schweinheim and Pannarz were the first printers in Rome (1467), Speyer in Venice (1469), Gehring and Freyburger in Paris (1470), Reisinger in Naples etc.

<sup>\*\*)</sup> The town of Neuss was defended by the Landgrave of Hesse and 1800 men, all brave warriors.

## 37. Maximilian I.,

(A. D. 1493-1519)

Archduke of Austria, son of the former, was elected Roman king at Frankfurt during his father's life-time. Soon after his accession to the throne he fought against the French, both in his quality as emperor and as archduke, in defence of the Duchy of Burgundy and was successful. His wars against Hungary were also crowned with success.

Being now sole monarch in Germany, Maximilian turned his attention seriously to restoring order in his dominions and re-establishing the ancient power of the German emperor. In fulfilment of the warmest desires of the different orders of his people, he decreed in the year 1495 the promulgation of a perpetual peace, and the establishment of the Imperial Court of Justice (Reichs-Kammergericht), a court for the punishment of all infringements of the new constitution; this court at first held its sittings at Frankfurt, but was afterwards transferred to Speyer. It did very much to forward the restoration of public peace; whilst justice was now administered according to Roman law. The division of the empire into ten districts, as well as the establishment of the Imperial Aulic Council, were two useful measures taken by Maximilian, whereby he endeavoured to carry out what was imperatively needed by his times. Yet this reign was no less free from civil struggles than former reigns had been, and his unsuccessful attempt to compel the Swiss by force of arms to acknowledge the Imperial Court of Justice (1499), alienated them from the empire, so that they showed henceforth very little interest in its affairs. In the Bavarian War of Succession he succeeded in making his authority felt, but the Venetians prevented his expedition to Rome, for which even the Germans themselves showed little inclination. Nevertheless, with the consent of pope Julius II, he assumed the title of "elected Roman" emperor and took more or less active part in all the events of his time, particularly in the League of Cambrai (1508), and afterwards in the Holy League; but in most of his actions he showed more rashness than energy, and was but little, if at all, assisted by the nobles of his empire. The art of war was at that period undergoing a complete revolution, partly owing to the introduction of gunpowder and cannon, and partly in consequence of the employment of mercenary soldiers. In fact, the emperor Maximilian may be considered as a typical figure of the period of transition from the middle ages to modern times. Reuchlin and Ulric von Hutten were favoured by him; Albert Dürer, Kranach, and Holbein lived and achieved their master-works during his reign; Henry Isaac, the leader of his orchestra, was the first of that glorious series of German composers who have since shed so much glory on the German nation; Hans Sachs, the Master-singer, had written his poems; Peter Vischer had modelled his incomparable statues; Erasmus of Rotterdam had published his works, and Martin Luther had begun his task of reform. Though foreign historians have often undervalued the work done by the emperor Maximilian I., and though several of his acts as a monarch have not been approved of by posterity, yet his name will always be held high in the memory of the German nation; and even to the present day they like to relate how he, the bold chamois-hunter, was saved as if by a wonder from a most dangerous spot on the Martin's Rock, or how, in the tournament at Worms, he boldly entered the lists clad in a simple knight's armour, to fight against a French knight, who was vainly looking round for worthy antagonist. Maximilian I. was buried at Wienerisch-Neustadt. A splendid mausoleum erected at Innsbruck in honour of this emperor is, however, nothing more than a cenotaph.

Maximilian I. was married to: 1) Mary of Burgundy; 2) Blanca

Sforza of Milan.

# 38. Charles V. (A. D. 1519—1558).

Archduke of Austria, and grandson of the emperor Maximilian, was born at Ghent in the Netherlands and inherited from his father the Austrian and Burgundian dominions, and from his mother, Joan of Spain, the kingdom of Spain and the newly discovered territories in America. Charles V. was elected at Frankfort after he had signed certain stipulations. He was successful in his wars against France, whose king, Francis the First, was taken prisoner at Pavia (1525) and his ally, Pope Clement VII, suffered the same fate after Rome had been taken by assault (1527). Soliman I., the Magnificent, having failed in his attempt to take the town of Vienna (1529), undertook a second expedition, but he was encountered Charles V. who was at the head of an army of 100,000 men, and was compelled to retreat once more (1532). Charles then sailed for Tunis where Barbarossa, the dread of the Christians in the Mediterranean, had taken up a fortified position; here again the emperor was completely successful. The conquest of Algiers, however, which had long been a favorite dream of the emperor's, could not be accomplished, a furious storm having scattered his fleet and destroyed several of his vessels with all on board, so that Charles was forced to reembark after having lost the greater part of his army (1541). In Hungary the Turks made steady though slow progress. In the north of Germany the Hanse League had begun to decline, for the discovery of the West Indies was a fatal blow to its power. Within the empire Charles V. endeavoured to establish a regular and firm system of government; he introduced reforms in the administration of justice by means of a criminal code\*) and by special instructions to the Imperial Court of Justice.

<sup>\*)</sup> This Criminal Code is known to German lawyers by the name of "Carolina".

Altogether Charles exerted himself to keep order in every part of his dominions.

In many respects Charles was estranged from Germany, partly owing to his education, and partly to his possession of the Spanish and Sicilian crowns, which caused the emperor to waste his strength by directing his ambition to the most opposite aims. His proceedings against the Reformation were also far from producing the result he had expected. In this reign the most important invents followed each other in rapid succession: the diet of Worms (1521), the Sickingen Feud (1522 and 1523), the Peasants' War (1524 and 1525), the transformation of Prussia (which had hitherto belonged to the Teutonic Order) into an hereditary duchy (1525), the Protestation at the imperial diet of Speyer (1529), the Augustan Confession (1530), the War for the Wurtemberg Succession, the Anabaptist Revolts (1534), the Schmalkalden League (1536), besides a number of other great historical events.

At a convention held at Frankfort, Charles made a final effort to reconcile the different religious parties, but with very little success. On the contrary, the Protestants now refused to acknowledge the Council of Trent, upon which the war began again (1546). During this war the emperor made use of Papal and Spanish troops, and the Schmalkalden Confederates, in consequence of their hesitation and disunion, were defeated in the decisive battle of Mühlberg. The result was that John Frederic, Elector of Saxony, and shortly afterwards Philip the Magnanimous, Landgrave of Hesse, were obliged to surrender. After this victory, Charles on his own authority sentenced the duke of Saxony to death, though he did not suffer the sentence to be carried out, but kept him and the Landgrave of Hesse prisoners at Bruges. All the other parties to the Protestant league (Frankfort not excepted), had to suffer for the insurrection in some way or other. In the year 1548, with the desire of putting an end to the religious disputes, Charles published, at the diet of Augsburg, the Interim, a formula drawn up by his own command, in which the articles of faith were laid down provisionally until they should be settled by the final decision of a general council. To this he compelled the Protestants to submit. But though humbled they were not subdued, and having concluded a treaty with the King of France, they put themselves under the command of Maurice of Saxony, who had formerly been a zealous adherent of Charles V., and once more took the field, with the intention of upholding the Protestant religion and the liberties of their country. In all haste Maurice marched to Innsbruck, where the emperor was then residing, and so nearly took him by surprise, that the emperor escaped with difficulty during the night. Soon after this the emperor entered into negociations of peace. But it was not until Augsburg had fallen, and the Protestants had begun the siege of Frankfort (which. was vigorously defended by an imperial garrison), that a provisional treaty was signed at Passau (1552). The Peace of Augsburg (1555)

at last put an end to the hostilities, and settled the religious disputes on a secure basis. But the chief fortresses on the western frontier of the German empire, Metz, Toul, and Verdun, had been taken by the French during these civil wars and were now lost to the empire for centuries; for, though immediately after the treaty of Passau the emperor made an attempt in person to retake the capital of Ostrasia, his efforts were rendered useless by the cold winter and its fatal consequences on his army (1553).

Mortified by this last adversity, and generally dissatisfied with the results of his long and active reign, besides being tormented with bodily disease and inclined by nature to fits of deepest melancholy, Carles at length resolved to resign his crown\*). Having gone through the ceremony of resignation he retired to the convent of St. Just, in Estramadura, where he expired after two years, in the 59th year of his age. He was buried at Granada, but later on his remains were transported to the Escurial, where his tomb is still to be seen. Charles V. was the last German emperor who was crowned by the pope. He was married to Isabella of Portugal.

# 39. Ferdinand I., (A. D. 1558—1564).

King of Hungary and Bohemia, Archduke of Austria and brother of Charles V, was elected Roman king during the lifetime of his brother (1531), and had already in that quality, taken active part in the government. After Charles V. had resigned, Ferdinand was proclaimed emperor at Frankfort by the electoral princes (1548). In this capacity he displayed the greatest ability and indefatigable industry in the affairs of state. He endeavoured, above all, to restore peace in the Church, and was furtunate enough to succeed where his predecessors had failed. The crowns of Hungary and Bohemia, which he recovered for his House, greatly increased his authority as emperor. The army of the Sultan Soliman was so superior to his in number, that the greater part of Hungary fell into the Sultan's hands, and remained an integral part of the Ottoman Empire for a great number of years. The greatest misfortune that occurred during this reign was the conquest of Livonia, Courland, and Esthonia, which unhappy countries were now lost for ever to Germany, having been conquered by Ivan the Cruel after a most desperate resistance. Owing to internal disturbances, Ferdinand had been unable to assist the northern provinces of his empire with sufficient energy. Ferdinand I. was the last emperor crowned at Aix-la-Chapelle. He died and was buried at Prague.

<sup>\*)</sup> For this purpose he summoned his son Philip to Brussels, where he was solemnly invested with the government of the Low Countries, and a few weeks later with that of Spain and the Indies. In the following year Charles resigned the Imperial crown of Germany to his brother Ferdinand. For particulars see Robertson's History of Charles V.

Ferdinand I. was married to Anne, sister and heiress of Ludwig, king of Hungary and Bavaria, who was killed in the battle of Mohacz.

## Maximilian II.

(A. D. 1564-1576).

son of the former, King of Hungary and Bohemia, and Archduke of Austria, was elected during his father's lifetime at Frankfort and was crowned in the same town (1562). He was an active and magnanimous prince, distinguished alike for his learning and chivalry, of which he gave many proofs when still young and prince-regent of Spain\*). Endowed with these admirable qualities he soon acquired the love and esteem of all his subjects. Maximilian surpassed by far all his contemporaries in the purity of his religious feelings and his love for his native country; he endeavoured seriously to bring about a reconciliation between the Catholics and the Protestants, (taking Cassander's opinion as the basis of the agreement\*\*), he also made an attempt to pacify the Low Countries by remonstrating with King Philipp II. on account of his proceedings with those unhappy provinces, but in vain. Though he did not succeed in this noble undertaking, he was at least fortunate enough to be able to prevent any foreign influence from being exercised in his own dominions and to secure the confidence of the greater part of the nation, so that he was able to rely on their assistance when his realm was invaded by the Turks (1566). Nor did his good fortune forsake him during the war, for the unexpected death of Soliman before the walls of Sigeth, where Zriny sacrificed himself and his heroic troops for a glorious death, saved him the trouble and danger of fighting a decisive battle. The feuds between an ambitious nobleman, William of Grumbach, and the bishops of Bamberg and Wurzburg (several writings in defence of Grumbach had been published in the town of Frankfort to the great displeasure of the emperor) were suppressed without any difficulty. From this time the empire enjoyed peace during the remainder of Maximilian's reign. It is much to be regretted that this wise monarch died after such a short reign (the crown of Poland had just been offered him), for from the moment of his death the German empire began its irretrievable decline. Maximilian II. was buried at Prague; he was the first German emperor that was crowned at Frankfort.

Maximilian II. was married to Mary, daughter of the emperor Charles V.

<sup>\*)</sup> It was while he was Prince-regent of Spain that Maximilian II. is said to have had the adventure which is the subject of Conradin Kreutzer's Opera. "The night-quarters in Granada".

<sup>\*\*)</sup> Cassander was professor of Divinity at Ghent and Cologue and published his opinion in the year 1642 under the title, "De articulis religionis inter Catholicos et Protestantes controversis ad Impp. Ferdin. I. et Maxim. II. consultatio".

## 41. Rodolph II.

(A. D. 1576-1612)

son of the former, King of Hungary and Bohemia, Archduke of Austria, was elected and crowned king at Ratisbon during the lifetime of his father (1575). He reigned at a time when the prosperity of the German empire was on the rapid decline. By the discovery of the sea-route to India the trade-routes of the world had taken a different direction, thus avoiding the southern provinces of Germany. The loss of important territory on the shores of the Baltic had done considerable damage to German interests; the Netherlands aspiring to independence had blocked the Rhine and so destroyed the prosperity of the Rhenish towns, while the rising trade of England had outrivalled that of the towns of the Hanse League. Thus through a total lack of commercial policy, one source after another in body politic of Germany was exhausted. At the same time erroneous notions, fanaticism, and superstition made the people ignorant and prevented the progress of science, whilst narrow-mindedness, incessant quarrels about matters of religion, and a want of interest in state affairs on the part of the emperor himself, aggravated the deplorable condition of the country and made the decline inevitable. The struggle of the Low Countries for their independence (which began in 1658), and a war against the Turks which lasted from 1591 to 1606, threw the two extreme frontiers of the empire into disorder and the rapid growth and spread of the new monastic order of Jesuits, the expulsion of the Archbishop of Cologne, Gebhard (1584), the revolts in Aix-la-Chapelle, the ecclesiastical dispute in Strasbourg, the loss of Donauwörth (1607), the Protestant Union, the Catholige League (1610), and the political movements which preceded and followed the Bohemian "Imperial Charter", were all harbingers of the dreadful storm that was threatening the German Empire.

But Rudolf, who was more interested in his studies of astrology and alchemy than in the affairs of his empire, preferred conversing with the great astronomers Tycho de Brahe aud Keppler\*) to managing his own state affairs, and was at last compelled to resign the thrones of Austria, Hungary and Bohemia in favour of his brother Mathias. Having withdrawn into complete retirement he died at Prague, where he was buried. The celebrated "Rudolphine Charts" have rendered his reign an era in the annals of astronomy.

Rudolf II. was unmarried.

## 42. Mathias,

(A. D. 1612-1619)

brother of the former, King of Hungary and Bohemia, Archduke of Austria was elected and crowned king at Frankfort, where, immediately after his coronation, revolts and disturbances broke out,

<sup>\*)</sup> Keppler struggled against the dark spirit of his age and died in poverty and distress in the year 1630.

but were soon put down. In Bohemia, however, more serious events were proceeding; shortly before the emperor's death, which took place after a reign of five years, the religious disputes once more led to open hostilities. In the month of May 1618 the Thirty Years'

War began.

The policy of the intolerant bishop of Prague was to destroy the Protestant places of worship. Enraged at the severity he employed, the Reformers forced their way into his palace; seized the Imperial Councillors, Martiniz and Slawata, and threw them out of the window. This was the first act of violence in that long and sanguinary struggle which now began between the Protestants and the Catholics. Matthias was buried at Vienna where his tomb is still to be seen.

Matthias was married to Anne of Austria, who died chieldless.

## 43. Ferdinand II.,

(A. D. 1619-1637)

king of Hungary and Bohemia, Archduke of Austria, a nephew of the emperor Maximilian II., was elected and crowned at Frankfort at the very time when the Thirty Years' War was beginning. During the whole of his reign Ferdinand followed his well-considered plan of campaign with unswerving energy, and in close alliance with Maximilian of Bayaria and the King of Spain. His generals as well as those of the League, Tilly, Pappenheim, and Wallenstein, were victorious in many battles and the emperor's enemies, who were not united by any ties whatever, were defeated and subdued one after the other. Thus Frederic, the elector of the Palatinate, who had been made king of Bohemia, lost his crown after his defeat on the White Mountain near Prague (1620), and was shortly after even deprived of his hereditary dominions of the Palatinate. Count Mansfeld succeeded in gaining a slight victory a Mingolsheim (1622), it is true, but in the same year George Frederic, Margrave of Baden-Durlach, lost the battle of Wimpfen and Duke Christian of Brunswick was defeated at Hoechst, and again in the following year at Stadtloo.

In 1626 Count Mansfeld was defeated at the battle of Dessauer-Bridge and only escaped capture by a rapid flight. In the same year Tilly defeated the Protestants of Lower Saxony at the battle of Lutter on the Barenberg, and likewise the army of King Christian IV. of Denmark, who had created another Protestant confederacy with the intention of restoring the ancient Electorate of the Palatinate. The strongly fortified town of Stralsund alone held out after an heroic defence, yet this did not prevent the emperor from publishing the Edict of Restitution\*) in 1629. At this juncture

<sup>\*)</sup> The Edict of Restitution commanded the restitution of all Church lands seized by the Protestant princes subsequent to the treaty of Passau. Even the Catholic electors opposed the execution of this edict, having themselves secured no small amount of ecclesiastical property.

Gustavus Adolphus, King of Sweden, suddenly makes his appearance in Germany; the energy and success of his operations brought victory to the Protestant arms, and for some years the emperor's cause went from bad to worse. At Lützen, however, the Swedes gained the victory too dearly, as it cost them the life of their heroic king (1632). From this moment the fortune of war wavered for a time; but after Wallenstein had been murdered Gallas was appointed commander-in-chief of the imperial troops, as well as of those of Spain and the League, and won the battle of Nordlingen against Bernard of Weimar and the Swedes (1634). The immediate consequence of this victory was the Peace of Prague (1635). This treaty, however, was not accepted by all the states, and soon the disastrous struggle began once more, this time with the active participation of the French. The victory gained by the Swedes at Wittstock gave another turn to the war (1636). In the following year Frederic died amidst the din and confusion of war, and was as far as ever from having carried out the plans he had formed. In accordance with his wish, Ferdinand was buried at Gratz.

Ferdinand II. was married to: 1. Mary Anne of Bavaria, mother of Ferdinand III.; 2. Eleanor of Mantua.

## 44. Ferdinand III.,

(A. D. 1637-1657)

son of Ferdinand II, King of Hungary and Bohemia, and Archduke of Austria, the victor of the battle of Nordlingen, was elected and crowned at Ratisbon during his father's lifetime (1636). After his accession to the throne the next year he continued the war, but with indifferent success, and his armies having been defeated one after the other, he was at last compelled to think seriously of bringing the struggle to an end. At last, in the year 1648, the peace of Westphalia was signed at Munster and Osnabruck. This treaty is one of the most regrettable incidents in the history of Germany, for in addition to the irreparable damage caused to the country it also granted important advantages to Sweden and France. Nevertheless, after all the sufferings of so protracted and devastating a war, the news of peace was received with general rejoicing and gratitude to the Almighty; the poet of the period, Paul Gerhard, has truly transmitted to us the feeling of the times in his lines:

"O praise the Lord, for now will cease The dread of war! The hour of peace Has come at last; the trumpet note For ever hushed in field and moat! No more shall pike and edged sword By death of man offend the Lord, Minstrel, take up thy lute and sing, For now the earth with joy shall ring, O Praise the Mighty Lord and say, Thou art our fortress and our stay!"

Yet the German nation lay prostrate and helpless at the conclusion of these internal strifes. The complete independence of Switzerland, and of the United Provinces of the Netherlands, from the German Empire was now confirmed, partly by formal sanction and partly by a tacit understanding. The greater part of Alsace and the Sundgau was ceded to France. Sweden obtained several German provinces with the right of sitting and voting in the German diet; and the treaty granted furthermore to both these powers a right of intervention, which unfortunately could very easily be misused. Poverty and anarchy now reigned supreme all over Germany; burnt towns, a devastated and depeopled country, depraved manners, and a language disfigured and corrupted by the introduction of foreign words, was almost all that remained to Germany after this terrible war. Such was the result of a struggle brought about by selfish aims and blind fanaticism, under the influence of foreign states, and carried on with barbaric cruelty, the advantages of which, however, were all reaped by other countries. Though energy and perseverance has succeeded in regaining much of what was then lost, yet the wounds which Germany then suffered have never been completely healed to the present day.

The only bright side upon which the history of these times can dwell with some delight is the work done by the so-called "Order of the Palm", which had been founded a short time before the outbreak of the war by Prince Ludwig of Anhalt, with the intention of preserving the purity of the German language and combatting the prevailing bad taste and crudeness in speech and writing. The literary men of this time, Opitz, Flemming, Spee, and Gehrhard, wrote works that are still highly appreciated, and deserve to be mentioned in terms of unstinted praise. It is with mingled feelings of pride and melancholy that the historian records how, among the few who escaped from the horrible massacre of Magdeburg, there was one Otto de Guerike, who afterwards invented the air-pump and made the first public experiments with his machine at the imperial diet of Ratisbon in the presence of the emperor Ferdinand.

Ferdinand III. was buried at Vienna. He was married to: 1. Mary Anne of Austria (of the Spanish line), mother of the Roman King Ferdinand IV., who died before his father, and his brother the Emperor Leopold I.; 2. Mary Leopoldine of Austria; 3. Eleanor of Mantua.

## 45. Leopold I.,

(A. D. 1658-1705)

son of the former, King of Hungary and Bohemia, Archduke of Austria, was elected and crowned at Frankfort in spite of the counter-intrigues of France and Sweden. He was induced, against his own will and under great difficulties, to wage war against the Turks; but he was successful and the first of his great victories was that

of St. Gotthard, where Montecuculi defeated the army of the Infidels (1664). In the year 1683 the Turks were vanquished under the very walls of Vienna and at Barken, by the noble Sobieski and Charles of Lorraine, who commanded the united Polish-German army. Later on, when the Poles and their king, who had been offended by the emperor, had returned home, the Germans still remained victorious at Buda (1686), Mohacz, (1667), Belgrade (1688), Nissa (1689), Salankemen (1691), and Zentha (1697). The Ottoman Empire, by this long train of defeats and disasters of every kind, was shaken to its very foundations. The Treaty of Carlowitz (1699) terminated this disastrous war and completed the humiliation of the Porte; Transylvania, Sclovania, and the greater part of Hungary were restored to the German Empire. It is with pride that the Germans recall the names of those illustrious commanders who, in that sanguinary struggle for the deliverance of their native country and for the sake of Christianity, led the armies of the German emperor from triumph to triumph. The Duke of Lorraine, the Elector Maximilian of Bavaria, the Margrave Louis of Baden, and Prince Eugene of Savoy are names of which Germany is justly proud; the more so, as they belong to a period when Germany was far from being prosperous, and when history has little else to point to but gloom and sadness.

While the above-mentioned glorious events were taking place in the far eastern parts of the empire, the French, who had already secured possession of the duchy of Burgundy and several other conquests (not always by means of arms), suddenly broke the peace of Nimuegen (1679) and invaded the western frontiers of the empire. There they laid waste the fields, plundered, murdered, and drove out the defenceless inhabitants, set fire to towns, villages and castles, destroyed the works of art, blew up churches, broke open tombs, and scattered the bones of the dead in all directions. In this way were destroyed innumerable towns, Speyer, with the tombs of so many former emperors, Worms, Oppenheim, Mannheim, Ladenburg, and Heidelberg, and a hundred others; all were sacrificed to the cowardly barbarity of Louis XIV. in consequence of the helpless condition of the German empire. To the very gates of Frankfort\*), and far into the land of the Swabians, province after province was devastated and laid waste by fire; for the forces of the distracted empire were only to be collected very slowly, as the different states were, despite the distress of the country, unable to lay aside their paltry disputes concerning titles and precedence of rank. The operations of the German army in the field, though powerfully supported by England and more especially by Holland under William of Orange, were far from meeting with success, as they were hindered by internal discord and the fact that the war against the Turks was not vet over.

<sup>\*)</sup> Oberrad, Niederrad, Riedhof, and Ziegelhütte were burnt to the ground.

Nevertheless, by the treaty of Ryswick Louis XIV was compelled to restore the territories which he had united to his French dominions, with the exception of Strasbourg and some other towns and districts of Alsace. Again, a few years later, the War of the Spanish Succession brought the French once more into Germany, and the electors of Bavaria and Cologne, in direct opposition to the desires and interests of their subjects, espoused the cause of their country's enemy. The emperor Leopold I. lived long enough to renew his alliance with the English and the Dutch, and to see his adversaries completely defeated at the battle of Blenheim (Hochstädt) in 1704, but shortly after this event he died and was buried at Vienna.

It is related that Leopold I. died amidst the sweet sounds of music which he had ordered to be played to him during his last moments. His taste for music, and the encouragement he gave to that art, are worthy of mention; but his taste and devotion was given entirely to Italian music, and he totally disregarded the progress that had been made in the art in the northern parts of Germany, through the influence of such musicians as Keiser, Telemann, and Händel. The unity in the church for which he had longed so much, and for which his great contemporary Leibnitz had worked so unremittingly, was unachievable for very obvious reasons. The interest shown by the emperor in the Silesian school of poetry is scarcely worth mentioning. On the other hand the University of Breslau reveres in him its founder. Under his reign Hanover was raised to the dignity of an Electorate (1692), and Augustus, the elector of Saxony, was made king of Poland (1697). Brandenburg acquired the crown of Prussia, which it had deserved by the bravery of its warriors in almost all the battles fought against the Turks and the French.

Leopold I. was married to: 1. Margaret Theresia of Austria (of the Spanish line); 2. Claudia Felicitas of Austria; 3. Eleanor, a Countess Palatine and mother of Joseph I. and Charles VI.

# 46. Joseph I., (A. D. 1705—1711).

King of Hungary and Bohemia, Archduke of Austria, son of the emperor Leopold I, was elected and crowned during his father's lifetime at Augsburg (1690). In alliance with England and Holland he continued the war successfully against France. The great commanders Marlborough, Prince Eugene, Leopold of Anhalt (well known in Germany under the name of the "Dessauer"), and Guido of Stahremberg, led the allied armies from victory to victory; sometimes in the Netherlands, sometimes in Italy or Spain. The victories of Turin (1706), Ramillies (1706), Oudenarde (1708), Malplaquet (1710), Almenara and Saragossa (1710), followed rapidly one after the other. Meauwhile the emperor Joseph, a wise, tolerant,

and energetic monarch, had acquired a particular claim to the gratitude of his people by reviving the Imperial Court of Justice, which, during the devastation of the Palatinate by the French, had been removed from Speyer to Wetzlar, where it had lost so much of its influence that at last it fell completely into disuse. Joseph I. died in the thirty-third year of his reign and was buried at Vienna where his tomb is still to be seen.

Joseph I. was married to Wilhelmina Amelia of Hanover.

# 47. Charles VI.,

brother of the late emperor, King of Hungary and Bohemia, and Archduke of Austria, was elected and crowned at Frankfort, Some vears after his accession to the throne Charles VI, who had been defeated by the French at Denain and several other places, concluded the peace of Rastadt and Baden (1714). England and Holland had some time before concluded a separate treaty with Louis XIV. at Utrecht. The treaty concluded by Charles VI. was not very advantageous to the German empire, but it brought with it a long period of peace and security after the conclusion of the war of the Northern Powers (1721). Even the war still going on against the Turks did not disturb this peace much, as the different states of the empire only took part in it, in so far that they contributed sums of money. Only very few princes supplied troops, with the exception of Bavaria, and only good news arrived from the seat of war, where the great victory of Prince Eugene at Peterwardein (1716) heightened the glory of the imperial arms. The most brilliant victory gained in this war was that of Belgrade, in which Prince Eugene 'the Noble Knight', put two hundred thousand Turks and Tartars to flight, and afterwards took that fortified town. The consequence of this victory was the Peace of Passarowitz in 1718. A war with Spain was also brought to a favorable conclusion by the emperor in 1720. The War of the Polish Succession, however, was not so successful, as France became involved in it (1734 and 1735); it was in this war that Prince Eugene appeared for the last time as commander-in-chief of the Imperial forces, but he was not able to achieve much, as the princes of the empire sent but insufficient troops for the defence of the empire though they had enough soldiers at their disposal. It is not surprising, therefore, that the province of Lorraine had to be ceded at the treaty of Vienna; nay, many persons in Germany were so far from realising the importance of the great loss they suffered by the separation of that province from the empire, that some members of the imperial diet even expressed their gratitude to the Duke of Lorraine for having by his resignation generously promoted the peace and welfare of the empire. It must be remembered, however, that the ruling house of Lorraine was indemnified for this loss by having possession of Tuscany ceded them.

The greatest exertions were made by Charles VI. to secure the acceptance of the Pragmatic Sanction, which should guarrantee to his daughter Maria Theresia the succession to all his hereditary dominions. In these negotiations he proved more successful than in his plans for founding a commercial company in the East Indies, which he was obliged to renounce.

Unfortunately Charles had neglected the condition of his army, so that on entering upon another war against the Turks he was completely defeated at Krotzka (1739), and finally after further reverses forced to sign a humiliating treaty, shortly after which he died. Charles VI. was the last male descendant of the house of Rudolf of Habsburg.

His burial place is at Vienna. — During this emperor's reign

George Lewis of Hanover mounted the English throne.

Charles VI. was married to Elisabeth Christine of Brunswick.

With the death of Charles VI. the German empire reached the lowest level of its decadence, and the dissolution of that union, which was unable to secure permanence to the empire, now made rapid strides. Yet at the very moment when the symptoms of the approaching end became more and more evident, we perceive the first signs of a new life then but dawning on this nation whom Providence had not yet doomed to utter destruction; there arose men who rekindled the almost extinguished spark of German nationality at the shrine of science, poetry, and art; this spark afterwards became a flame that soon inspired the hearts of their countrymen with a nobler fire, and encouraged them on to fresh exertions. These great men sowed the seed on German soil which was afterwards to secure to the nation a new and glorious life, when the old state of things had almost reduced the empire to non-existence.

But the names of those noble men are not to be found in this hall of kings, for the reigning monarchs were at the time almost unaware of their higher strivings and only paid homage to foreign art, which alone found favour at the German courts. Christian Wolf met with a certain amount of attention from Charles VI, just as Leibnitz had done, and Fux, Bach, Hasse, Graunm and Gluck, found a certain favour with the nobility, but such men as Haller, Hagedorn, Gellert, and many others laboured to elevate the minds of their fellow countrymen far from the bustle and noise of royal courts; whilst Winkelmann, Klopstock, Lessing, and Kant were preparing themselves in solitude for their sublime vocation.

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## 48. Charles VII of Bavaria,

(A. D. 1742-1745)

Elector of Bavaria, of the House of Wittelsbach, laid claim after the death of Charles VI. to the thrones of Austria and Bohemia, as a descendent of the daughter of Ferdinand I.

Frederic II., king of Prussia, in order to support his claims to some Silesian duchies, invaded Silesia with a large army. Maria Theresia, the high-spirited heiress of the house of Habsburg, relying on the support of her subjects, but more especially on the enthusiastic loyalty of the Hungarians, called her people to arms. Thus the struggle for the succession to the Austrian dominions took place almost at the same time as the first Silesian War. Nothwithstanding all these disturbances, and even amid the roar of cannon, Charles was elected and crowned at Frankfort (1742), after an interregnum that had lasted fifteen months. His election was carried through chiefly with the aid of French influence. Shortly after this event, king Frederic, having secured for himself the greater part of Silesia, concluded a separate peace at Breslau (1742), whilst the French, who were allied with the emperor Charles, were defeated everywhere in the war they had undertaken against Austria and England. But when Frederic II took up arms again, in alliance Hesse-Cassel and the Palatinate, the second Silesian War began. The Elector of Saxony now sent assistance to Maria Theresia, but the emperor who resided mostly at Frankfort, his own dominions being in the hands of the enemy, did not live long enough to enjoy the fruits of this alliance, for he had scarcely succeeded in re-entering Munich when he died, after a reign of only three years. During his reign the decay of the German Empire had made visible progress. He lies buried in the Theatiner Church at Munich.

Charles VII. was married to Mary Amelia of Austria, daughter of the emperor Joseph I.

## House of Austria-Lorraine.

## 49. Francis I.,

(A. D. 1745-1765)

Grand-Duke of Tuscany, of the House of Lorraine, was married to Maria Theresia of Austria, daughter of the emperor Charles VI., and was elected and crowned at Frankfort. The Austrian War of Succession being terminated by the Peace of Aix-la-Chapelle (1748), there was a short interval of repose, after which the new emperor became engaged in the Seven Years War, in which Germans again met face to face with Germans and the tottering edifice of state was shaken to its very foundations (1756—1763). It was only after the vicissitudes of war had severely tried both parties, that the treaty of peace, signed at Hubertsburg between Austria and Frederic the Great of Prussia, brought repose and peace once more into the country. Scarcely two years after this happy event the emperor died and was buried at Vienna.

## 50. Joseph II.,

(A. D. 1765-1790)

son of the former, Archduke of Austria, was elected and crowned Roman King at Frankfort during his father's lifetime (1764), and on the death of his father became emperor and at the same time coregent with his mother, Maria Theresia, in their hereditary dominions. After the decease of his mother, in 1780, he was proclaimed King of Hungary and Bohemia. He was an energetic prince well disposed towards his German subjects. He carried out reforms in the Imperial Chamber of Justice and in his own Austrian dominions; he likewise published an edict in favour of religious toleration and evinced the utmost activity in promoting the welfare of his subjects, according to his own personal views and convictions. It was speaking of him that Klopstock says, "Thou summonest the priest again to be an humble disciple of the Great Founder of our Faith; thou makest again the oppressed countryman to be a citizen of thy state; thou proclaimest even the Jew to be a man. What monarch ever finished, where thou hast begun?"

But all his endeavours to put fresh life into the German constitution and to redress ancient wrongs were without avail; on the contrary, as his actions were sometimes hasty and seldom favoured by circumstances, they everywhere provoked mistrust and discontent. Having had a struggle with Frederic the Great concerning the Bavarian succession, and his expectations having been somewhat disappointed by the treaty of Teschen (1779), he became engaged in a new conflict with Holland about the freedom of navigation on the Scheldt; and as the so-called Confederation of Princes tried to frustrate the plans he had formed for the exchange of German provinces, he concluded an alliance with Russia and made war against Turkey (1788). Nor did this sanguinary war turn out according to his wishes; he returned from Belgrade with the first attacks of a mortal disease, from which he shortly afterwards died, as his last words testified. of a broken heart. He had felt too deeply the sad fate that was coming over his country. Joseph II. was buried at Vienna. To the present day his name is revered by the German nation and remembered with the warmest feelings of respect and gratitude and will for all times be handed down to posterity as that of one of Germany's best and wisest emperors. Of him the poet Schubart has said,

> "Many of thy schemes were baffled, For thou wast a man, not more; Wast not able to say like God; Let there be light!"

Joseph II. was married to: 1. Elisabeth of Parma; 2. Josepha of Bavaria, who both died in their prime.

## 51. Leopold II.,

(A. D. 1790-92)

King of Hungary and Bohemia, Archduke of Austria, the wise ruler of Tuscany and brother of the emperor Joseph II., was elected and crowned at Frankfort. He soon concluded peace with the Turks and signed the treaty of Pillnitz with Prussia (1791) as a safeguard against the French Revolution, but died two years after his accession to the throne. His remains lie buried at Vienna.

Leopold was married to Mary Louisa of Spain.

## 52. Francis II.,

(A. D. 1792-1806)

son of the former, King of Hungary and Bohemia, we elected and crowned at Frankfort shortly after the outbreak of war following on the French Revolution. He lived to see the empire completely broken up by Napoleon I. (1806); and he also survived the events of the year 1813, to which he contributed very considerably. After the battle of Leipzig, which delivered Germany from the yoke of the French, Francis made a triumphant entry into Frankfort, amid the acclamations of the inhabitants; whereupon he went to Paris to settle, with the assistance of his allies, the political state of Germany, as it has ever since remained. Francis II. lies buried with his ancestors at Vienna. He was the last Roman Emperor of the German nation.

Francis II. was married to: 1. Elisabeth of Wurtemberg; 2. Maria Theresia of Sicily; 3. Maria Louisa Beatrix of Austria; 4. Charlotte of Bavaria.

## Epilogue to the First Edition.

From the above short historical sketch it will be seen that the Emperors' Hall is not merely a picture gallery, but rather a national and historical monument, created by serious and well-meaning persons, which, though like most human works not equally perfect in all its parts, is as a whole well worthy of the subject and the place. The manifold defects will not be judged too severely by anyone who is capable of discerning the true value of such a monument as a whole. The "Mene, Mene, Tekel" which is here written on the wall by the hand of God, as once in the royal hall at Babylon, cannot be effaced by the hand of the painter. May the warning that is to be read on these walls spread like tongues of fire through the whole German nation, until the curse which is proclaimed be turned from us. Then will the warning become extinguished of itself, and our decendants will cross this threshold with feelings of pride more justifiable than any we can have at the present time.

## Epilogue.

The remarks in the preceding epilogue about the paintings in the Emperors' Hall have themselves become a monument of past times. Sooner than the author could have imagined, the events have happened which were to obliterate for ever the "Mene, Mene, Tekel" on the wall. Just as the last harmonious chords of stirring music falls on the ear with soothing cadence, so the mild countenance of the Emperor William, suggests to us, after we have passed in review all the other emperors on the wall, a time of peace after a period of stormy history. The time longed for by the author, when we shall be able to "cross the threshold with feelings of greater pride", has already arrived. A number of great men with the emperor William at their head, have succeeded in welding the dismembered fragments of the German empire to one harmonious whole. But it was not the "Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation" which was restored to life, it was a new imperial throne on a more solid foundation; not an emperor elected by a few princes, but an emperor chosen by the voice of the whole nation.

The chief difference between the former and the present empire is, that the crown is now hereditary in the house of Hohenzollern, and Germany is no longer an elective empire; that the different states have a share in the government through the Confederative Council, and the people through the Imperial Diet (Reichstag); and above all that the different states are represented abroad as one

nation by the imperial army, navy, and the embassies.

Long before the Emperor Francis laid down the imperial crown in the year 1806, the Rhenish Confederation had placed the southwestern provinces of Germany under the influence of France. In the south Austria had seceded from the empire and in the north Prussia, so that even in name the empire had already ceased to exist.

With astonishing rapidity Napoleon succeeded in crushing Prussia and humbling Austria, and annexing large tracts of German territory to the French empire. But more rapid than his rise was to be the conqueror's fall; unfortunately the fall of Napoleon was not coupled with the restoration of the German Empire. The Act of Confederation (8 June 1815), which was intended to unite the sovereign states, was not such as to satisfy true patriots. Under the influence of the Holy Alliance, the Prussian government could not see its way to fulfilling the just desire of the German people for a representative constitution. Nor could the emperor make up his mind to gratify their longing for unity. In 1849 King Frederic William IV. declined the imperial crown that was offered him by the National Assembly.

However in the year 1833, by the erection of the Prusso-German Customs Union, the different parts of the empire were brought closer together, at least commercially, and the exclusion af

Austria was prepared. It was only under the reign of Frederic William's successor that a new era was to begin for Germany.

## 53. Wilhelm I.,

(A. D. 1871--1888)

second son of Frederic William III. and his consort Louise, was born on the 22nd of March 1797. The happy union of the parents gave promise of a bright youth for the young prince, but the war-clouds that came over Prussia in the year 1806, cast a shadow over the young child's soul. In 1810 his dearly beloved mother was taken from him.

When the allies followed Napoleon into France after the battle of Leipzig, Prince William accompanied the army as a Prussian captain. At Bar-sur-Aube, in 1814, he had his first occasion of distinguishing himself before the enemy. Soon afterwards he took part in the triumphant entry into Paris.

In the following years of peace Prince William devoted himself to the duties of his military calling. In 1829 he was married to Princess Augusta of Saxe-Weimar.

As the marriage of his royal brother was without issue, the title of Prince of Prussia was conferred on him, as next heir to the throne. During the political disturbances of 1848 he spent some time in London. At the head of a Prussian army he afterwards restored order in the Rhenish Palatinate and in Baden.

In 1858 he took up the government as Prince Regent, during the incurable illness of his brother, after whose death he mounted the throne as King William I. Soon after his accession, he surrounded himself with a ministry of moderate Liberals and so began a "new era" into Prussia. The reforms that were now introduced met with considerable opposition from the reactionary party, whose representatives sat in the Senate. Before long a violent struggle began between the progressive party and the government, which had already assumed very serious proportions when Herr von Bismarck became the first minister of the crown. Soon, however, events occurred which forced all internal disputes into the background and raised several very difficult problems to be solved by the king and his advisers.

An unjustifiable proceeding on the part of the Danish government resulted in the occupation of Holnstein by the German Confederation. King William had alwaye considered it as his particular task to protect German territory, and the Schleswig-Holstein question afforded him the desired opportunity of demonstrating this. The manner in which Prussia now took up the question of these duchies, induced Austria also to draw the sword against Denmark, and deprived the other powers of every pretence to interfere in favour of Denmark, has always been considered one of the greatest master-

pieces of German statesmanship. In the Danish-German war, moreover, it became evident to every skilful observer that the organisation of the Germany army could stand the test in case of need, a fact

that had before been seriously doubted by many.

Irreconcileable differences of opinion between Austria and Prussia, concerning the ultimate fate of the two duchies conquered from Denmark, led to an appeal to arms and a war decided which was in future to be the dominant state in Germany. Having made an alliance with Italy, King William invaded Bohemia and gained, with the newly organised army, a victory that surpassed all expectations.

Although Bismarck had before the war showed unexampled boldness in his policy, he now astonished the world by the moderation with which he treated a beaten enemy. Later events proved that this very moderation was an act of the greatest statesmanship.

The next important act accomplished by the king was to unite all the states north of the Main into the "North German Confederation". By means of the Customs Union, the southern states also approached nearer to Northern Germany, and a secret alliance

guaranteed mutual help in case of attack.

It was to be expected that France would do all in her power to prevent the complete union of the German Empire from being accomplished. When in 1870 Napoleon III. considered himself sufficiently prepared, a dispute about the Spanish succession afforded him the desired pretext for war, and thus began a sanguinary struggle which ended in the complete overthrow of France.

The acquisition of Alsace-Lorraine with Strasburg and Metz, together with the union of Germany under one emperor, were the

chief results of this victorious campaign.

The venerable monarch was spared to his country for a number of years longer to promote the welfare of the empire and to uphold peace. A defensive alliance with Austria and Italy reduced

the danger of an attack from aggressive neighbours.

Useful reforms were now introduced, among others a uniform system of weights and measures and a common code of laws for the empire. The fleet, the creation of which had already been begun, was now enlarged and became an important factor in the defence of the empire, and colonies were now founded. By far the most important innovation of this time, however, was the introduction

of old-age and sick pensions for working men.

On the 9th of March 1888, the beloved monarch breathed his last at the age of ninety-one. The empire, which he had seen so debased in his youth, he left to his successor strong and united at home and esteemed abroad. Later generations alone will be able to contemplate the heroic figure of the Emperor William, surrounded by his faithful counsellors Bismarck, Moltke, Roon etc., in his full greatness, and history will doubtless place him among the most eminent of the German emperors; for he was the monarch who intro-

duced a new era in the history of Germany and pointed out the

way of future development.

In the year 1892 the white marble statue\*) of the emperor William was placed in the Emperors' Hall. Thus, surrounded by the portraits of all the old emperors, there now stands the statue of the man who at last accomplished what many of them had striven to create — a mighty, hereditary empire.

<sup>\*)</sup> The statue has since been removed to the adjoining "Bürgersaal" in the newly-built part of the Town-Hall.

## Mottoes of the Emperors.

Most of the portraits of the emperors are accompanied by a few words, which are generally looked upon as the motto of the emperor in question. We here subjoin these mottoes and likewise supply those which are not mentioned. We do not, however, guarantee their historical genuineness; many of them, especially those of the earlier emperors, have doubtless been added by later historians, or having merely been occasional utterances of the monarch in question, have thus been turned into a motto. Nevertheless many of them are genuine and all sufficiently worthy of remark to be mentioned here.

#### 1) CHARLEMAGNE.

- "Christus vincit, Christus regnat, Christus triumphat."
- "Christ conquers, Christ reigns, Christ triumphs".
- 2) LOUIS THE DEBONNAIRE, OR THE PIOUS.
- "Omnium rerum vicissitudo".
- "All human things are subject to change."
- 3) LOUIS, THE GERMAN.
- "Fortuna sequitur laborem."
- "Toil is succeeded by happiness."
- 4) CHARLES, THE FAT.
- "Os garrulum intricat omnia."
- 'A talkative tongue brings confusion."
- 5) ARNULPH.
- "Facilis descensus Averni."
- "Broad is the road to perdition."
- 6) LOUIS, THE CHILD.
- "Multorum manus, paucorum consilium."
- "Many heads, many minds."
- 7) CONRAD I.
- "Fortuna, quam blanditur, fallit."
- "When fortune smiles, beware!"

## 8) HENRY I.

- "Ad vindictam tardus, ad beneficentiam velox."
- "Slow to punish, quick to reward."
- 9) OTTO I.
- "Satius est ratione aequitatis mortem appetere, quam fugere et inhoneste vivere."
- "Better to die for justice' sake, than to flee and live without honour."
- 10) OTTO II.
- "Cum omnibus pacem, adversus vitia bellum."
- "Peace with all men, but war with vice."
- 11) OTTO III.
- "Facile singula rumpuntur jacula, conjuncta non item."
- "Arrows are easily broken when separate, not so when united."
- 12) HENRY II.
- "Nihil impense ames ita fiet, ut in nullo contristeris."
- "Love nothing too much, and you will have no occasion to grieve." or: "Ne quid nimis."
- "Nothing too much."

- 13) CONRAD II.
- "Omnium mores, tuos imprimis observato."
- "Watch every one's manners, but first your own."
- 14) HENRY III.
- "Qui litem aufert, execrationem in benedictionem mutat."
- "Whoever ends a quarrel, changes a curse into a blessing."
- 15) HENRY IV.
- "Multi multa sciunt, se autem nemo."
- "Many know much, but none themselves."
- 16) HENRY V.
- "Miser qui mortem appetit, miserior, qui timet."
- "Unhappy is he who longs for death, more unhappy who fears it."
- 17) LOTHAIRE.
- "Audi alteram partem."
- "Hear the other side."
- 18) CONRAD III.
- "Pauca cum aliis, multa tecum loquere."
- "Speak little with others, much with yourself."
- 19) FREDERIC I.
- "Praestat uni probo, quam mille improbis placere."
- "It is better to please one honest man, than a thousand who are dishonest."
- according to others his motto was:
- "Qui nescit dissimulare, nescit regnare."
- "Who is not able to feign, is not able to reign."
- 20) HENRY VI.
- "Qui tacendi non habet artem, nec loquendi novit opportunitatem."
- "Who does not known the art of keeping silent, does not know the proper time to speak."
- 21) PHILIP.
- "Quod male coeptum est, nc pudeat mutasse."
- "What you have begun badly, do not be ashamed to change."
- 22) OTTO IV.
- "Strepit anser inter olores."
- "Among swans the goose makes a noise."

- 23) FREDERIC II.
- "Complurium thriorum ego strepitum audivi."
- "I heard the rustling of some fig leaves."
- or: "Minarum strepitus, asinorum crepitus."
- "The noise of threats is like the braying of an ass."
- (an allusion to the attempt to make him resign).
- 24) RUDOLPH I.
- "Melius est bene imperare, quam imperium ampliare."
- "It is better to rule the empire well, than to enlarge it."
- 25) ADOLPHUS.
- "Praestat vir sine pecunia, quam pecunia sine viro."
- "Better the man without money, than money without the man."
- 26) ALBERT I.
- "Fugam victoria nescit."
- "Victory knows no flight."
- or: "Quod optimum, idem jucundissimum,"
- "The best is the most agreeable."
- 27) HENRY VII.
- "Calicem vitae dedisti mihi in mortem."
- "The cup of life you gave me to cause my death."
- (allusion to the supposed nature of his death).
- 28) FREDERIC, THE FAIR.
- "Beata morte nihil beatius."
- "Nothing is better than a beautiful death."
- 29) LOUIS IV., THE BAVARIAN.
- "Hujusmodi comparandae sunt opes, quae simul cum naufragio enatent."
- "Thus treasures are collected, which will float ashore with the shipwrecked."
- or: "Sola bona, quac honesta."
- "Only what is good is honest."
- 30) GUNTHER (unknown).
- 31) CHARLE IV.
- Optimum est aliena insania frui."
- "It is most agreeable to profit by others follies."

#### 32) WENCESLAUS.

"Morosophi moriones pessimi."

"Wise fools are the worst."

#### 33) ROBERT.

"Misericordia non causam sed fortunam spectat."

"Pity does not consider the cause but the misfortune."

#### 34) SIGISMUND.

"Mala ultro adsunt."

"Misfortune comes unawares."

#### 35) ALBERT II.

"Amicus optima vitae possessio."

"A friend is the greatest treasure in life."

# 36) FREDERIC III. (IV.) "A. E. I. O. U."

(Austria est imperare orbi universo.")
"Austria shall rule the whole globe."

or: ("Austria erit in orbe ultima." ("Austria will remain to the end of the world.")

## 37) MAXIMILIAN I.

"Tene mensuram et respice finem."

"Keep within bounds, and think of the end."

#### 38) CHARLES V.

"Plus ultra."
"More beyond."

#### 39) FERDINAND I.

"Fiat justitia, pereat mundus."

"Justice be done, though the world perish."

#### 40) MAXIMILIAN II.

"Deus providebit."

"God will provide."

#### 41) RUDOLPH II.

"Fulget Caesaris astrum."

"Caesar's star ascends."

or: "Omnia ex voluntate dei."

"Everything as God wills."

#### 42) MATTHIAS.

"Concordi lumine major."
"In united light greater."

#### 43. FERDINAND II.

"Legitime certantibus."

"To the rightful combatants."

#### 44) FERDINAND III.

"Pietate et justitia."

"By piety and justice."

#### 45) LEOPOLD I.

"Consilio et industria."

"By advice and industry."

## 46) JOSEPH I.

"Amore et timore."

"By love and fear."

#### 47) CHARLES VI.

"Constantia et fortitudine."

"By steadfastness and valour."

48) CHARLES VII. (unknown).

#### 49) FRANCIS I.

"Pro Deo et Imperio."

"For God and the Empire."

#### 50) JOSEPH II.

Virtute et exemplo."

"By virtue and example."

#### 51) LEOPOLD II.

"Opes regum corda subditorum."

"The treasures of kings are the hearts of their subjects."

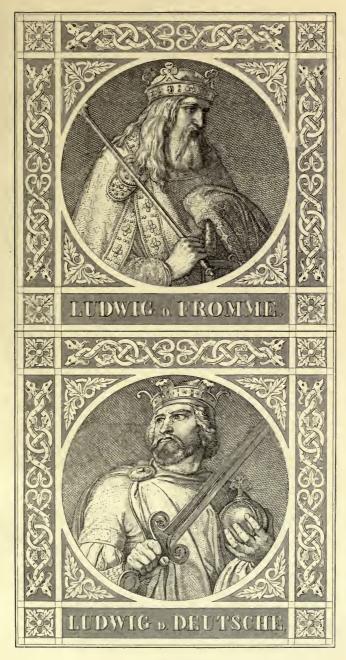
#### 52) FRANCIS II.

"Lege et fide."

"By law and fidelity."











876-887.





911-918.





919 - 936.





936-973.





973-983.





1002-1024.





1024-1039.





1039-1056.





1056—1106.





1106-1125.





1125-1137.





1138-1152.





1152--1190.





1190-1197.





1197—1208.





1197-1215.





1215 - 1250.





1273-1291.





1292-1298.





1298 - 1308.





1308—1313.





1314-1347.





1314-1330.





1347-1378.









1378-1400.





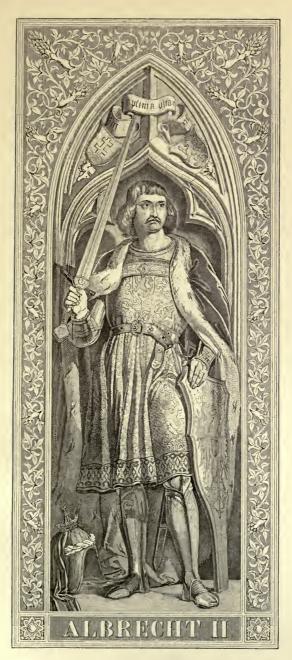
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1410-1437.





1437 - 1439.





1440 - 1493.





1493—1519.





1519-1556.





1556—1564.





1564-1576.





1576—1612.





1612-1619.





1619-1637.





1637-1657.





1658-1705.





1705—1711.





1711-1740.





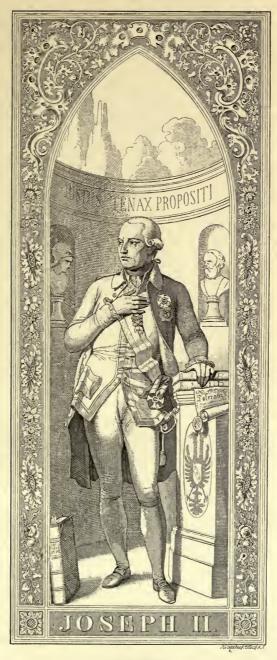
1742-1745.





1745-1765.





1765-1790.





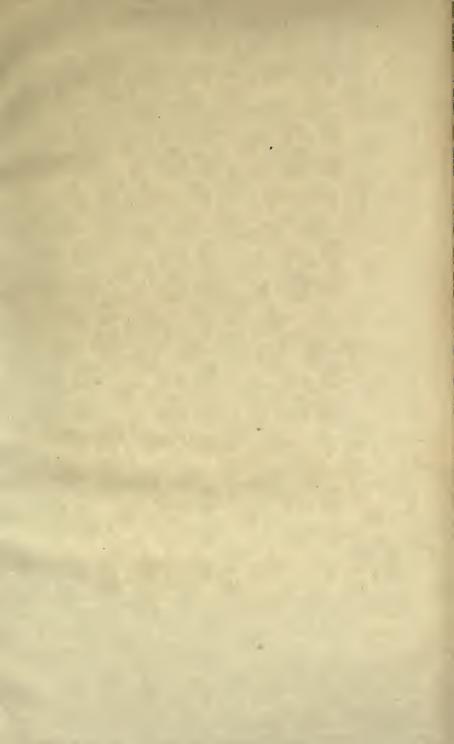
1790-1792.





1792—1806.





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